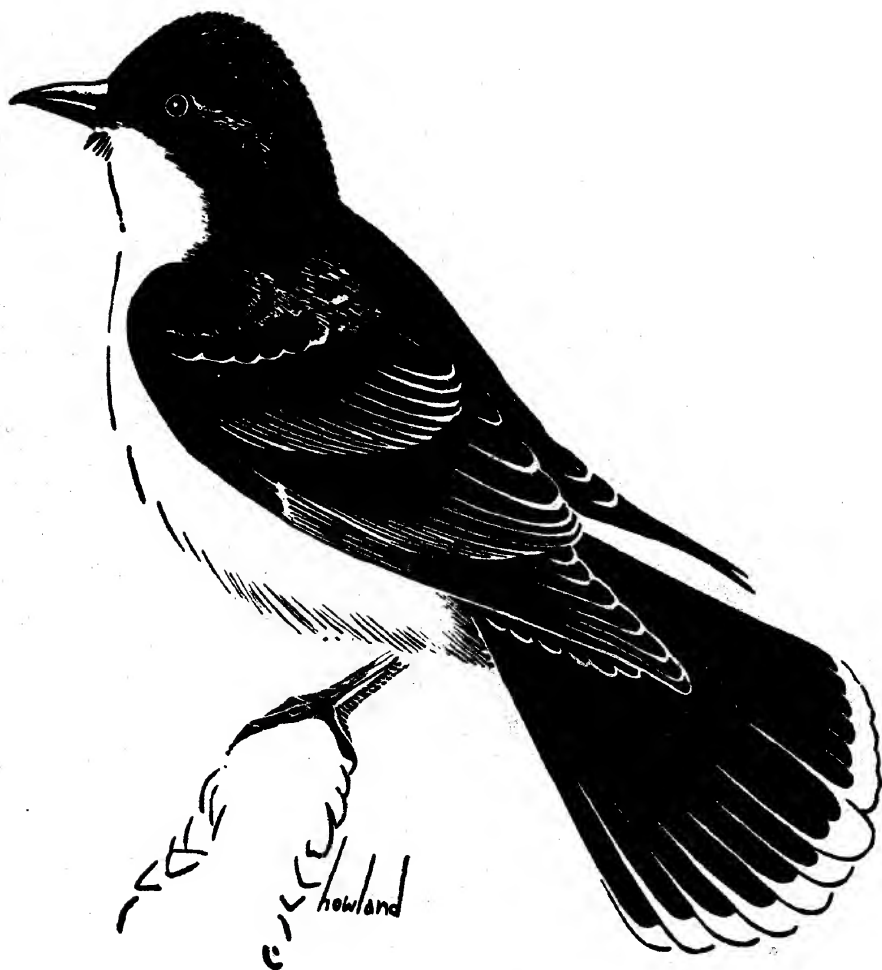


# *The* **KINGBIRD**



VOL. XXX, NO. 1

WINTER • 1980

**FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.**

*THE KINGBIRD* (ISSN 0023-1606), published four times a year (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall) is a publication of The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., which has been organized to further the study of bird life and to disseminate knowledge thereof, to educate the public in the need of conserving natural resources and to encourage the establishment and maintenance of sanctuaries and protected areas. Individual member's dues are \$8.00 annually. Other membership classes are: Family Membership (\$10), Supporting Member (\$15), or a Life Member (\$150)—“payable over a four-year period in equal installments,” if member so desires. Student membership \$3.00. *THE KINGBIRD* institutional subscriptions: \$9.00 per year on calendar year basis only. Single copies: \$2.25. All memberships are for the calendar year and begin with January of the year in which the member joins. Memberships beginning after the first of the year include back issues for that year.

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Publication office is 20 Drumlins Terrace, Syracuse, N.Y. 13224.  
Second class postage paid at Syracuse, N.Y.



# The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

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1-64

## CONTENTS

Photographs of New York State Rarities	
34. White-faced Ibis . . . . .	Thomas H. Davis 3
Some Observations on the Fall Migration of Waterbirds at the East End of Lake Ontario	
. . . . Dorothy W. Crumb and Gerald A. Smith	6
Laughing Gulls Colonize Jamaica Bay	
. . . . Peter W. Post and Don Riepe	11
1979 Federation Spring Migration Survey	
. . . . Cheryl Boise and Gordon M. Meade, M.D.	14
Avian Breeding Populations in Vineyards, Erie Lake Plain, Chautauqua County, New York	
. . . . Roy S. Slack and Cathie A. Baumgartner	16
Notes and Observations	
Hooded Warbler Breeding in Tompkins County . . . . .	David Peterson 21
Highlights of the Fall Season . . . . .	Susan Roney Drennan 23
Regional Reports . . . . .	27

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*Highlights of the Fall Season*

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Letters may be of a general nature as long as they pertain to New York State ornithology, or may be of a specific nature with reference to something that has appeared in *The Kingbird*. The editors reserve the right *not* to accept a letter for publication, or to edit a letter in accordance with space requirements. All letters received will be acknowledged. Your participation is invited.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES  
34. WHITE-FACED IBIS

THOMAS H. DAVIS



*White-faced Ibis. Pearsall's Hassock, Nassau County.*  
*May 8, 1979* *Harry Darrow*

In North America, the White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) is primarily a western species breeding regularly east to Nebraska and coastal Louisiana. Vagrants have occurred east to Michigan, Ohio, and western New York. The New York records prior to 1979 were two specimens, both collected at Grand Island along the Niagara River: August 1844 (NYSM 205) and 18 September 1908, the latter specimen no longer extant (J. Bull, 1974. *Birds of New York State*, p. 95).



The White-faced Ibis began to show signs of expansion in the mid-1970's. In 1976 the species bred for the first time in Alabama (*Am. Birds* 30: 966, 1976). In 1978 it bred for the first time in North and South Dakota (*Am. Birds* 32: 1176, 1978). In 1979, this species was found breeding for the first time since 1901, in San Diego County, CA. (P. Unitt, 1979, *Sketches* Vol. 30, p. 6). In addition, extralimital White-faced Ibises were noted at Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, North Carolina, in mid-May 1973 and at Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge, Tuckerton, New Jersey, 17-21 April, 1977 (*Am. Birds* 31: 979, 1977). Limiting factors in documenting this expansion on the East Coast have been the fact that observers have not been looking for the species among the hordes of Glossy Ibises (*P. falcinellus*), and the fact that they have not known what to look for. Illustrations in the standard field guides are largely inadequate. Don Eckelberry accurately portrays their differences in the Richard H. Pough's *Audubon Water Bird Guide* (1956, Doubleday and Co., Garden City, N.Y.). The finest article and illustrations detailing their field separation was produced by H. Douglas Pratt in the Jan.-Feb. 1976 issue of *Birding* (8: 1-5).

In 1979, three or four adult White-faced Ibises were noted along the Atlantic Coast, including a pair that probably nested in New York, and a bird observed in early July at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Virginia, but not seen thereafter (*vide* Richard Rowlett, details to be published elsewhere).

On 10 June the author, with Guy Tudor and Michele Monnier, discovered a breeding-plumaged bird at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens County. Thereafter a single adult White-faced Ibis was seen regularly through July at the West Pond, where numbers of Ibises come to drink and bathe. On departure from the pond the ibis always flew directly to Ruffle Bar, a mile and a half to the southwest, the site of Jamaica Bay's largest heronry. Beginning in late July, swelling numbers of juvenal ibises began to appear at the pond. On August 4 the author noted a pair of adult White-faced Ibises with Glossies at the West Pond; these birds were observed together or individually until 7 September. It is likely that the species bred at Ruffle Bar, that up to fledging young in late July one bird was always confined to the nest while the other fed, visited the West Pond, then returned to relieve it. Recognizable photographs of one or the other White-faced Ibis were obtained by Peter W. Post, Don Riepe, and myself. My observations on one and/or the other White-faced Ibis's

plumage and soft-part color changes were as follows:

10 June—bare facial skin pinkish-red, eye darker red, bordered entirely by broad white feathering; legs dull red; rest of plumage similar to Glossy Ibis.

23 June—slightly faded . . . white “face” now ragged at edge, legs faded to pinkish especially on knees and feet.

8 July—white “face” and extent of pinkish-red facial skin much reduced, eyes red, legs flesh with pink knees.

22 July—no longer has white feathering around face, bare facial skin dull pinkish-red, eyes red, leg color about same as Glossy.

4 Aug.—pair observed for first time . . . both showed prominent ruby red eyes, one opened gape exhibiting a bright pinkish-red lining.

26 Aug.—pair seen . . . both with ruby red eyes, one still retained small pinkish-red facial skin area and pinkish knees.

1 Sept.—the brighter adult observed 26 Aug. remains about the same.

23 Sept.—ibis numbers are much reduced from a week ago, couldn't locate White-faced.

On 3 September, 1979, I received a communication from Harry Darrow, a bird photographer. On a visit to Pearsall's Hassock, Nassau County, New York 8 May, 1979 Harry took a number of ibis flight shots, hoping to capture “the iridescence on the wing.” At least two rolls of film were exposed and when editing the results Harry “threw small images into a separate box.” Months later he was about “to throw them out but thought (he) should view them on a screen, just to be sure. Zappo, the second slide was a White-faced!” Reproduced here in black and white, this color transparency shows a breeding-plumaged White-faced Ibis much like the one I described on 10 June at Jamaica Bay, only 8 miles to the west. Pearsall's Hassock is also the site of a large heronry.

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## **SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE FALL MIGRATION OF WATERBIRDS AT THE EAST END OF LAKE ONTARIO**

DOROTHY W. CRUMB and GERALD A. SMITH

Most birders consider Derby Hill a spring hawk lookout. Few are aware, however, of the waterbird migration that can be seen here in the fall. Under certain weather conditions, Derby Hill is an excellent spot to observe flights that are impressive in numbers of species, individuals and rare and unusual species. There was very little observation of these movements from the late 1950's through the 1960's, but a few visits at the right times made observers aware of the potential.

Even in this decade, coverage is very limited due to travel distance from Syracuse and uncertain weather conditions around the lake. However, despite sporadic coverage, a certain pattern to these flights has been worked out. More knowledge of weather factors that produce these flights and relative abundance of species of birds which comprise the movements has been obtained. Regular fall coverage is needed to provide further information. It is hoped that the Onondaga Audubon Society's Derby Hill Bird Observatory can locate the necessary funding to continue its monitoring of spring migration and extend itself to do necessary research in the fall.

As with all movements at Derby Hill, the fall waterbird flights require a certain set of weather conditions to concentrate flights at this corner of the lake. The conditions are characterized by very strong WNW winds following the passage of a cold front. Wind strengths of 15-25 mph and more are an essential ingredient to concentrate migrants. Any time such conditions develop between mid-August and early December, some degree of movement may be expected.

The timing of a frontal passage seems to be critical to the timing of flights. When a front passes in late afternoon or at night, the flight occurs the next day if the winds remain strong. If a front moves through in early afternoon, there is frequently a large flight that same day. Late afternoon flights can easily go unrecorded due to the difficulty of predicting these fronts as they move across the lake. Rarely do large flights occur on successive days, even though conditions remain favorable.

It is difficult to know if jaegers spend time on Lake Ontario in the fall and are driven toward shore on gale winds where they can be more readily observed, or if large flights occurring after passage of a



cold front bring numbers of these long-distance migrants. Very little observation has been done by boat and we can only correlate the data that we have from shore, with simultaneous movements of ducks and geese.

Occasionally an intense low pressure area will generate more than one cold front and create unfavorable SW or WSW winds on the lake. This does not bring the birds close to the south shore and identification is difficult at great distances. An offshore flight may go undetected.

North and northeast winds do not appear to produce waterbird flights, except for ducks and geese. In particular, large Canada Goose flights can be seen on northeast winds.

The origin of a number of the species which occur off Derby Hill in the fall is open to considerable conjecture. Large numbers of migrant birds funneling down from Hudson Bay into James Bay would cross overland to the Atlantic Coast. One of the most direct routes would be through the east end of Lake Ontario on a south-southeast course and on to the Long Island area. Lake Ontario may serve as a resting or feeding area for these migrants at times, while on other occasions their flight to the coast is direct and difficult to detect. Small numbers of birds have been seen leaving the lake at Derby Hill and proceeding southeast. These birds invariably spiral and rise to a great altitude before going inland. They circle and return to the lake several times before departing, appearing reluctant to leave the lake. Such behavior has been observed with jaegers, Brant, Oldsquaw and other species. The groups disperse and fly high so that an accurate count on an overland route would be impossible.

Many of the most spectacular flights have occurred between 5 and 25 October, although large movements have been observed as early as 10 September and as late as 22 November.

The following table shows the peak dates for fall migration at Derby Hill for selected species:

Red-throated Loon	15 Oct. - 15 Nov.
Red-necked Grebe	20 Oct. - 20 Nov.
Canada Goose	1 Oct. - 15 Oct.
Brant	15 Oct. - 20 Nov.
Dabbling ducks	25 Sep. - 15 Nov.
Scaup	25 Sep. - 15 Nov.
Oldsquaw	15 Oct. - 15 Nov.
Scoters	30 Sep. - 10 Nov.
Northern Phalarope	20 Sep. - 31 Oct.

Red Phalarope	15 Oct. - 20 Nov.
Dunlin	1 Oct. - 31 Oct.
Pomarine Jaeger	1 Oct. - 15 Nov.
Parasitic Jaeger	1 Oct. - 25 Nov.
Glaucous Gull	15 Nov. -
Iceland Gull	15 Nov. -
Little Gull	1 Oct. - 15 Nov.
Black-legged Kittiwake	1 Nov. - 5 Dec.
Forster's Tern	1 Sep. - 20 Oct.

There are few records for some birds, but what little information we have shows Long-tailed Jaeger, Black-headed, Franklin's and Sabine's Gull occurring in September-October. The rare ducks, such as Barrow's Goldeneye, Common and King Eider, pass Derby Hill in November.

The fall of 1979 saw an astounding flight of Common Terns, spawned evidently by a hurricane, as well as four other exciting waterbird flight days.

On 15 September 1979, at the east end of Lake Ontario, there were strong northwest winds (20 to 25 mph) following the remains of Hurricane Frederic, which had broken into several small lows and passed to the west of Buffalo. F. G. Scheider had arrived early in the morning at the Sandy Pond inlet. This inlet is approximately nine miles north of Derby Hill, on the east end of Lake Ontario. Derby Hill is on the southeast corner of the lake. An Onondaga Audubon Society field trip was at El Dorado Shores that day, ten miles further north of Sandy Pond.

As early as 0700, Scheider was counting flocks of Common Terns beating due north along the lake shore. By the time he left Sandy Pond at 1100, he had counted 7800 Common Terns. Observers at El Dorado Shores said hundreds of terns were sitting around and any that flew also headed due north. The birds were obviously off course and were looking for an exit from the lake in a northerly direction.

Prior to 0800, the winds at Derby Hill still had not turned around to the north, but hundreds of terns were seen far out over the lake. From 1000, Jean Propst was at the lookout and the winds had shifted to northwest. All day she watched Common Terns by the hundreds milling around off the bluff and as far out over the lake as she could see. From 1430, there were five observers at Derby Hill. There was no possible way of knowing if the birds flew off to be replaced by others or if they were simply flying in circles and trying to get their bearings. By counting the large flocks in front of us at

one time, we were able to estimate 3000 Common Terns. This, added to the 7800 headed north at Sandy Pond, makes a total of well over 10,000 for the day. John Bull, in *Birds of New York State*, lists coastal maxima of 5000 after a hurricane at Moriches Inlet, 3 September 1949, and the inland maxima of 750 at Sodus Bay, Wayne Co., 3 September, 1966.

In addition to the sheer numbers and constant feeding activity of this mass of terns, there was one other action that was of interest. Several times in the afternoon, groups of 100 to 150 of the birds would seem to mass together and start spiraling up off the water. They would circle and climb continuously until they were small white specks high in the air. At that distance, they resembled a tight flock of shorebirds. When the group reached some unknown height, it would head to the west, where it was lost in the sun.

In the mass of Common Terns, there were a few Black Terns and small numbers of Great Black-backed, Herring, Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls. At 1700, a Sabine's Gull in immature plumage passed the lookout, followed at 1730 by a Willet. With so many hurricane-disturbed birds, it is surprising that there weren't more rarities. The large numbers of terns were still over the water as daylight disappeared. The following morning, only three or four hundred Common Terns could be found at the east end of Lake Ontario.

Except for location, the Common Tern flight of 15 September, 1979, does not really fit into this report because of the most unusual weather conditions. Probably the Sabine's Gull and Willet were the only birds mentioned that were migrating in a regular pattern, aided by the northwest winds.

On 7 October, the winds began to shift from the WSW to the WNW at approximately 1100. Between 1100 and 1330, while this windshift was occurring, 11 Parasitic Jaegers were seen some distance to the north. By 1330, the winds were WNW 15-35 mph and by sunset observers had counted 202 Parasitic Jaegers, 1 Pomarine Jaeger, 4 Forster's Terns, 1 Peregrine Falcon, an immature Sabine's Gull, 1 Black-legged Kittiwake, 2 unidentified jaegers and more than 1000 Brant.

This Parasitic Jaeger count far exceeds the maxima in Bull, also from Derby Hill. The previous massive flights were in 1973 with 184 on 5 October and 103 on 9 October.

The activity of the jaeger packs was a scene of constant motion of birds chasing gulls and each other, as well as of birds flying steadily

westward and others moving inland. A majority of the Parasitic Jaegers were immatures, but all ages and phases were well represented. The Pomarine Jaeger was an immature. Adults of this species rarely occur in this area.

On 8 October, although the wind continued from the northwest, there was not a jaeger to be seen.

The next unusual flight came on 25 October. Numbers were insignificant, but there was a great variety of birds. The wind again was northwest, but not very strong, possibly 10 mph. Nothing unusual was seen in the morning, with the exception of one adult Black-headed Gull. This is the first one to be seen in Region Five since 1972. At approximately 1400, just off the bluff, there was considerable activity caused by a feeding group of Red-breasted Mergansers and an assortment of gulls. Most of these were Ring-billed, Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls. From time to time, a different bird would join the flock temporarily, then move on. Among these were a dark phase Parasitic, a dark phase Pomarine Jaeger, and a Forster's Tern which still retained the black crown from the bill to just back of the eye—a strange plumage at this late date. There was an adult Little Gull, one Iceland and one Glaucous Gull, four kittiwakes (one in adult plumage) and one Bonaparte's Gull. This makes a total of nine species of gulls seen from Derby Hill in one day. The duck flight was not large, but was also varied. It included 1000 Oldsquaws migrating in groups of from 50 to 250 at a time.

On 29 October there were over a thousand scoters sitting in the water off the Derby Hill bluff. These were mostly Black Scoters, but there were 250 White-winged and 12 Surf Scoters. On 3 November there were 5000 Red-breasted Mergansers and the season closed on 28 November with an immature dark phase Pomarine Jaeger.

A visit to Derby Hill, owned by the Onondaga Audubon Society, on a blustery northwest wind day in the late fall can be frigid, but ornithologically exciting. It is hoped that increased coverage in the future will allow for further understanding of the factors that influence these fall movements of jaegers, gulls and various species of waterfowl.

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## LAUGHING GULLS COLONIZE JAMAICA BAY

PETER W. POST and DON RIEPE

The Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) was extirpated as a breeding bird in New York State during the late 1800's, by commercial eggers and hunters for the millinery trade. Despite recent searches by boat and helicopter, the first indication that this species might again be nesting on Long Island was not obtained until 1977. In early June of that year Buckley, Gochfeld, and Buckley (1978) found a pair of breeding-plumaged Laughing Gulls on the Line Island complex of salt marshes in Great South Bay, eastern Nassau County, but no evidence of breeding was found. Returning to the same location on 15 June 1978, they again found a pair of breeding-plumaged Laughing Gulls, but this time they succeeded in locating a nest, which contained one egg. A third breeding-plumaged individual, indicative of the presence



*Fig. 1. Laughing Gull nest and eggs. Jo Co Marsh,  
July 12, 1979*

*Peter W. Post*





*Fig. 2. Laughing Gull chick, Jo Co Marsh.*  
*July 13, 1979* *Peter W. Post*

of a second pair, was also seen. Later that same day, they observed two additional breeding-plumaged Laughing Gulls at Jo Co Marsh in Jamaica Bay, Queens County, but failed to obtain evidence of nesting. Our discovery, reported here, of a breeding colony of Laughing Gulls on Jo Co Marsh during the 1979 nesting season is, therefore, of considerable interest.

Jo Co Marsh is bisected, in a north-south direction, by a tidal creek. On 22 June 1979, while on a breeding-bird survey for the National Park Service, we could see a number of breeding-plumaged

Laughing Gulls in the western portion of the marsh, but were unable to explore that section at that time. Although no Laughing Gulls were present in the eastern section of the marsh, we did find three addled Laughing Gull eggs there. These were floating in salt water among *Spartina alterniflora*, near a flooded nest constructed of this same grass. The eggs were thoroughly bleached and thus devoid of any markings. We took one egg back to the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center where measurements (40 x 54 mm) and comparison of shape with the illustration in Harrison (1978) confirmed the identification.

We returned to the western section of Jo Co Marsh on 12 July and found a number of breeding-plumaged Laughing Gulls exhibiting apparent territorial behavior. We estimated that 12-15 pairs of birds were present and nesting. A search in one area, where birds were flying about and calling excitedly, soon produced a Laughing Gull's nest containing two eggs (Fig. 1). These measured 37 x 59 mm and 38 x 54 mm. The nest was located in, and constructed of, *S. alterniflora*, on the edge of an area of *S. patens*.

The following day, 13 July, one of us (PWP) and Bob Cook discovered two Laughing Gull chicks, elsewhere in this section of marsh (Fig. 2). From our photographs, Dr. Joanna Burger estimated these birds to be about 18 days old. The same day we also found a dead Laughing Gull chick, of about the same age, several hundred yards from the first two.

Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) also nest in these salt marshes. Laughing Gulls, which are predatory on tern chicks, were seen harassing adult Common Terns on a number of occasions. The expansion of Laughing Gulls on Long Island, and their interaction with nesting terns, should continue to be monitored in future years.

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- Peter W. Post—Dermatology Division, Department of Medicine, Cornell University Medical College, 1300 York Avenue, New York, New York 10021.
- Don Riepe—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Gateway National Recreation Area, Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, New York 11234.

## 1979 FEDERATION SPRING MIGRATION SURVEY

CHERYL BOISE and GORDON M. MEADE, M. D.

During May, 1979, thirty-one birding groups participated in the sixth annual spring migration survey of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. Over 600 people were engaged in this statewide ornithological orgy which, in toto, listed 269 species. This is a substantial decrease from last year's 284, which can possibly be accounted for in part by the "uncooperative weather" described by numerous observers.

The number of species listed by the various groups ranged from 54 to 209 with an average of 125. Again, as in four of the previous five years, the Rochester area count was highest with 209 species—down five from their 214 in 1976. The next highest was the Buffalo count at 178 species.

Each year, adding new species to the cumulative total becomes more difficult, but this year two were recorded—both by the Rochester count—to bring the six-year cumulative total to 319 species. The new ones were Swainson's Hawk and Forster's Tern. Species which have been seen on three or more of the five previous counts but which were "missed" this year were 17 in number: Red-necked Grebe, Little Blue Heron, Louisiana Heron, Black Scoter, Peregrine Falcon, Whimbrel, Wilson's and Northern Phalaropes, Glaucous Gull, Short-eared Owl, Chuck-will's-widow, Loggerhead Shrike, Orange-crowned and Palm Warblers, Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll and both crossbills. This is the second year in a row that no Loggerhead Shrikes have been seen. During the six years, only five individuals of this species have been reported, emphasizing the perilous status in New York State of this once fairly common bird. Of course, reports from one-day birding sprees do not represent the total migration picture, and several of these "missed" species were reported during the month, but were not seen on the day the surveys were made.

Horned Grebe, Cattle Egret, Oldsquaw, Gray-cheeked Thrush and Water Pipit were reported by fewer groups than usual. This also seemed to be a poor year for lingering winter visitants. In the early years of the survey, reports of such winter visitants as Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll, both crossbills, Tree and Fox Sparrows, in middle or late May were viewed with suspicion. As the years have gone on, reports of late-lingering individuals of these species have been made each year with convincing confirmatory details. It has become appar-

ent that scattered individuals do linger in the northern tier of counties and in the Adirondack foothills to these late dates, especially at feeders. In addition to the absence of crossbills, redpolls and Pine Grosbeaks, the number of reports of Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins was unusually low. Species such as Common Nighthawk and Vesper Sparrow continue to be low in numbers.

Despite the generally poor to mediocre conditions, several unusual sightings were reported: Golden Eagle in Dutchess County, Snowy Egret in Clinton County, Willet in Dutchess County, Long-billed Dowitchers on eastern Long Island and in Allegany County, Worm-eating Warbler in the Geneva area, Yellow-throated Warbler in Oneida County, Kentucky Warblers in Suffolk, Queens, Sullivan and Monroe Counties, Connecticut Warbler in Geneva, Yellow-headed Blackbird at Binghamton, and a Blue Grosbeak in Rochester. The reports, this spring, of Yellow-throated and Kentucky Warblers in several parts of the state apparently represent part of a general northward movement of this species, in an arc extending from southern New England, across New York and into the midwest. This type of movement has occurred before, with other species, but there is no present explanation for this periodic generalized phenomenon.

The House Finch has now invaded almost the entire state, except for the Champlain Valley and the Adirondacks. The movement seems to be accelerating. Those two invaders from the south—the Tufted Titmouse and the Mockingbird—are now being reported from all parts of the state on spring surveys, except the north-central counties and the Adirondacks. Their absence on spring counts from these areas has been consistent now for several years.

Although these spring forays are primarily recreational, they are building up information about changes in distribution and numbers.

A copy of the detailed summary by species and participating groups has now been sent to all group compilers.

The seventh spring migration survey dates in 1980 will be the entire month of May and the first week of June. The June dates will allow inclusion of the Federation's June 7 pelagic trip and of late surveys in the Adirondacks where migration is often later than elsewhere. Details will be sent to all clubs.

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## AVIAN BREEDING POPULATIONS IN VINEYARDS, ERIE LAKE PLAIN, CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY, NEW YORK

ROY S. SLACK and CATHIE A. BAUMGARTNER

Agricultural lands are often ignored by ornithologists studying avian populations. Although vineyards occupy considerable land area in portions of New York State, we could find no data regarding the breeding avifauna associated with vineyards. This study was undertaken to determine the species composition and density of breeding birds in vineyards and to compare the results with similar studies undertaken in other nearby plant communities.

### Study Area

Vineyard census plots were located within the towns of Pomfret and Sheridan, Chautauqua County, New York. This area is suitable for grape-growing due to the delayed spring and prolonged summer season which is caused by the moderating effect of Lake Erie on local climatological conditions (Zenkert, *Flora of the Niagara Frontier*, 1954).

All of the census plots were planted in single rows of Concord variety grapes (*Vitis* sp.). The vines grow along single strung wires stretched between wooden poles which are set in rows approximately 3 meters apart. Vegetative growth of the grapes reaches a height of about 1.5 to 2 meters and reduces the distance between rows to about 1.5 meters at shoulder height. Herbaceous ground cover varied but consisted largely of common plantain (*Plantago major*), narrow-leaved plantain (*P. lanceolata*), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), Italian rye grass (*Lolium multiflorum*), common timothy (*Phleum pratense*), quack grass (*Agropyron repens*), and bent grass (*Agrostis* sp.).

For each plot, distinctive characteristics that may influence avian utilization are listed in Table 1. Census plots are designated by a letter that indicates the town in which the plot was located, and by a number. Chemical treatment with herbicides and insecticides was common in the vineyards under study, but the effects of this spraying are not addressed in this paper.

### Methods

During May and June of 1975 and 1976, breeding bird censuses were conducted using the suggested standards for the spot-mapping technique (Robbins, *Audubon Field Notes* 24: 723-726). During



1975 four plots (two at Pomfret, two at Sheridan) were censused. In 1976 one of the Pomfret plots (P-1) was recensused and two new plots were censused at Sheridan. Eight repetitions were made in each plot during each year.

### Results

Table 2 presents the estimated densities (pairs/ha) for each species as calculated from each plot. Of the sixteen species, only the Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) was found in each plot. The highest breeding density in a single plot was noted for the Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) in plot P-1.

Table 3 presents the results of similar censuses conducted in open field and shrub plots. Indicated are the mean breeding density values and the density ranges for species that occurred in these plots as well as vineyards. These data are taken from censuses conducted by the authors and co-workers during 1975 and 1976 within the same towns.

### Discussion

The Field Sparrow was found at similar densities within all vineyards; and these estimates are equivalent to the mean estimated density of this species in shrub communities. Thus vineyards would seem to offer suitable breeding habitat for the species.

There was considerable variation in density of Song Sparrows in the various census plots. Density values ranged from zero to 2.1 pairs/ha. The latter figure is higher than any density found for this species in either the open field or shrub community. The highest density values in both years were found in plot P-1 which was the least maintained of all census plots. This plot was irregularly shaped and divided into several parts by road cuts. This lack of maintenance and the large amount of shrub and open field border associated with the census area are probably the major factors contributing to high Song Sparrow utilization.

Values for the other species indicate generally lower densities in vineyards than in open field (e.g., Red-winged Blackbird, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow) or shrub (e.g., American Robin and Red-winged Blackbird). The presence of several species may be due to some particular characteristic of an individual vineyard plot. Plots S-3 and S-4 contained rather rocky, barren substrate, a characteristic with which Vesper Sparrows are often associated. Killdeer and Horned Larks nested on edges of dirt roads cut through vineyards, while a House Wren nest was located in a cavity in a wooden post.

Nests of species such as the Chipping Sparrow, Eastern Kingbird, Indigo Bunting, and Upland Sandpiper were not located and may have been outside the plots. Territorial display of these birds indicated, however, that the vineyard plots constituted a significant proportion of their individual territories. These birds, as well as others, may take advantage of vineyard posts as conspicuous singing perches.

Observations made during July and August 1975 as part of another study indicate that the American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) and the Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) may also be common breeders within vineyard plots. Adult American Goldfinches were observed nearly as often as adult and immature Field Sparrows. Several nests of both Cedar Waxwings and American Goldfinches were noted in vineyards during July and August.

The majority of species that were found breeding in the vineyards would be expected to be associated with young shrub and open field areas. Vineyards, which typically have open space between vines, provide suitable habitat for both ground-nesting species, and shrub species that will utilize grape vines for nesting. Several ground-nesting species were associated with access road edges within the plots. Low avian densities within vineyards might be expected due to the low species and structural diversity of the vegetation and also due to the possible effects of human disturbance during spring cultivation.

#### Summary

Vineyard plots in western New York were censused for breeding birds during 1975 and 1976. Species that utilized vineyards were a mix of shrub and open field species. The Field Sparrow was the most abundant and evenly distributed species. However, incidental observations indicate that the Cedar Waxwing and American Goldfinch may be as common later in the season.

#### Acknowledgements

The authors are indebted to Lynn Braband, P. G. Kalka, and H. E. Slack III for their assistance with the field portion of the study. J. M. McMullen provided information on the vegetation. Funds for the studies were provided by Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation.

*Terrestrial Environmental Specialists, Inc.,  
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TABLE 1  
Description of Study Plots

<u>Plot</u>	<u>Size/Shape</u>	<u>Characteristics</u>
P-1	10 acres/irregular	<p>Bordered 3 sides by shrub, remaining side by stream and pond.</p> <p>Divided into 4 sections by access roads.</p> <p>Outbuilding in center of plot.</p> <p>Poorly maintained, herbaceous growth up to 1 m in height.</p>
P-2	25 acres/irregular	<p>Bordered by old field (2 sides), roadway (1 side), and shrub and pine plantation (1 side).</p> <p>Divided by grassy drainage ditch and several access roads.</p> <p>Ground between rows tilled during census period.</p>
S-1	15 acres/rectangular	<p>Bordered by vineyard (2 sides), hayfield (1 side), and roadway (1 side).</p> <p>Access road surrounds plot.</p> <p>Well maintained, tilled and fertilized during census period.</p>
S-2	8 acres/rectangular	<p>Bordered by vineyard (3 sides), remaining side by open field.</p> <p>Access road along open field side.</p> <p>Well maintained, tilled during census period.</p>
S-3	13 acres/rectangular	<p>Bordered by shrub (3 sides), newly planted vineyard (1 side).</p> <p>Access roads on two shrub and vineyard side.</p> <p>Well maintained, partially tilled during census period.</p> <p>Portions with rocky and barren substrate.</p>
S-4	9 acres/rectangular	<p>Bordered equally by roadway, open field, woodlot, shrub, and new vineyard.</p> <p>Open field area previously stripped of topsoil, broomsedge and fire</p>

cherry dominant plants.  
Herbaceous vegetation scarce, bus-  
strate rocky and barren.

TABLE 2  
Estimated Densities of Breeding Birds in New York Vineyards

Species	Year Plot	1975				1976		
		P-1	P-2	S-1	S-2	P-1	S-3	S-4
Field Sparrow		0.5 (a)	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.1
Song Sparrow		1.2	0.6	0.2	0	2.1	0.3	0
American Robin		0.2	0.1	0.3	0	0.1	0	0
Red-winged Blackbird		0.1	0	0.2	0	0	0.3	0
Chipping Sparrow		0	0.2	0.3	0	0	0	0.1
Savannah Sparrow		0	0	0.1	0	0	0.3	0
Vesper Sparrow		0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.3
Eastern Kingbird		0	0	0	0	0	0.2	0
Brown-headed Cowbird		0	0	0	0	0	0.2	0
Yellow Warbler		0	0	0	0	0.2	0	0
Grasshopper Sparrow		0	0	0	0	0	0.2	0
House Wren		0	0.1	0	0	0	0	0
Indigo Bunting		0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Killdeer		0	0.1	0	0	0	0	0
Upland Sandpiper		0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Horned Lark		0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0

a. Pairs per hectare.

TABLE 3  
Estimated Density of Some Breeding Birds in Open Field  
and Shrub Communities, New York (a) 1975-1976

Species	Estimated pairs/ha (Range)	
	Open Field	Shrub
Field Sparrow	0.1 (0-0.2)	0.4 (0.1-1.0)
Song Sparrow	0.1 (0-0.3)	0.9 (0.4-1.3)
American Robin	0	0.2 (0-0.7)
Red-winged Blackbird	0.8 (0-2.0)	0.4 (0.1-1.3)
Savannah Sparrow	0.6 (0.1-1.7)	0.1 (0-0.4)
Grasshopper Sparrow	0.3 (0-1.1)	0

a. Censuses conducted in towns of Pomfret and Sheridan, Chautau-  
qua County, New York.

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

**Hooded Warbler Breeding in Tompkins County:** Hooded Warblers (*Wilsonia citrina*) are not common in New York and typically nest in lowland riparian habitat and the lake plains (Bull, 1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 518). I report herein an unusual New York observation of successful nesting by the Hooded Warbler at a high elevation, in upland hardwood forest in the Finger Lakes Region. This may well be the first documentation of nesting for this species in Tompkins County. On 29 May 1979, a male Hooded Warbler was first observed singing at an elevation of 1800 feet in the northeast corner of Cornell University's Arnot Teaching and Research Forest, Van Etten, Tompkins County. The bird was on a northeast-facing ridge covered with beech-maple forest and a dense understory of striped maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*), sugar maple (*A. saccharum*), beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) and clumps of hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*). On 31 May, the male was again observed singing and a female was seen in the branches of a fallen beech. However, no nest could be found in the area. On later dates (18, 19, 20 June), the male was heard singing, but the female was not found at that time.

Then on the evening of 25 June, the female was found feeding in the understory and on the ground. While foraging, the bird was continually chipping. After ten minutes, she stopped chipping and flew to a nest. The nest was .5 m high in the branches of a .75 m high beech sapling. The nest also was attached to the overhanging branches of a dead beech limb which covered the northwest side of the nest. The outside of the nest was covered with dead leaves and the cup was lined with pine needles.

On 27 June, R. J. Gutiérrez from Cornell and C. R. Smith from the Laboratory of Ornithology observed the female on the nest and found that the nest contained three brown speckled eggs. The male was again heard singing. The next day, while showing the nest to R. Howard of Cornell, we found that there were two males singing on the ridge.

By 8 July, two of the three eggs had hatched. I could not find any sign of any other females or nests in the area although both males were still singing. Eight days later on 16 July the female was found feeding two fledglings some 400 m south of the nest site across the county line in Cayuga, Schuyler County. The fledglings were fully feathered, except for their tails.

The nest was found empty except for some egg shells. It would appear that the third egg never hatched and was broken by the two nestlings. The nest was collected and is now in the Cornell University Ornithology Collection.

Although this species is usually associated with lowland areas in New York, the Arnot Forest site is not unlike that found in parts of the bird's southern breeding range (C. R. Smith, pers. comm.). In addition, Hooded Warbler males also were observed singing on nearby upland sites during the spring at Hammond Hill (elev. 1850-1900') by C. R. Smith and others.



I would like to thank R. J. Gutiérrez and C. R. Smith for verifying these observations and reading this note. These observations were made while the writer was supported by U.S.D.A. Hatch grant 4719 to R. J. Gutiérrez.

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For the past ten years, the difficult and thankless task of Circulation Manager has been ably handled by Dr. Frederick C. Dittrich of Syracuse, New York. He has now given up that post, and the task will be assumed by Constance N. Wilkins of Cortland, New York.

The editors of *The Kingbird* wish to say, "Thank you, Ted," for a job well done.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON

SUSAN RONEY DRENNAN

David and Frederic, the brothers grim, got the fall 1979 season off to a lively, if not downright exciting, start. Like brothers, they were similar yet distinguishable. Both were born far out in the Atlantic; both peaked just before landfall. They followed similar paths, with Frederic curving farther westward than David. They both had lives of approximately two weeks, and they were both billion-dollar hurricanes.

The more blustering of the brothers, David, came ashore in the vicinity of Savannah Beach, Georgia, on Tuesday, September 4. By the next day, somewhat weakened but nonetheless potent, it moved through the Carolinas and up into Virginia. By this time several crackerjack birders in New York State anticipated some avian fallout and, with various degrees of finesse, disengaged themselves from assorted work-week responsibilities. On Thursday, September 6, they took to the beaches or riverbanks and were richly rewarded. That morning David veered northeastward near Binghamton, and its accompanying easterly winds and counterclockwise air flow provided fine conditions for bringing subtropical species north and to the coast, and for taking primarily coastal species inland.

An abbreviated summary of the weather-displaced species includes: disoriented Sooty Shearwater seen near Dobbs Ferry; two Gannets observed flying northwest out over Lake Ontario—probably hurricane residuals; Northern Phalaropes on the Hudson River, Mecox Bay and Shinnecock Inlet, Long Island; Parasitic Jaeger flying southeast over the Hudson; Long-tailed Jaeger spotted at Shinnecock; more than 1500 Laughing Gulls tallied in Regions 8, 9 and 10; Gull-billed Tern on Long Island; Forster's Terns on the Hudson; 110+ Sooty Terns in Regions 8, 9 and 10; fewer than 15 each Bridled and Least Terns and at most 5 Sandwich Terns observed on Long Island; several Royal Terns flying south over the Hudson and at Jones Beach; and small concentrations of Black Terns distributed along the Hudson and Atlantic shorelines.

Preliminary estimates of the damage Frederic caused in Alabama and Mississippi, with its 90-145 mph gusts, 5-12 foot storm tides, and 2-9 inches of rain, range from 1.7 to 1.9 billion dollars. By September 13, it had reached Tennessee but its energy was considerably dis-

sipated. It continued up the west side of the Appalachians and hurriedly passed through Pennsylvania and New York, dousing Buffalo with 4+ inches of rain. Frederic's remnants moved across northern New England on Friday, September 14. While this tropical storm deposited fewer exotics in New York, it did accommodate inland birders with rather remarkable concentrations of some species. A small group of Wilson's Phalaropes was observed in Westchester County. Two dark-phase immature Parasitic Jaegers, one each in Regions 6 and 7, may well have been storm-related. Nearly 3000 Bonaparte's Gulls, a Forster's Tern, and estimates of upwards of 10,800 Common Terns in Regions 5 and 6, along the eastern shore of Lake Ontario, are simply amazing and without precedent. A Sabine's Gull seen from Derby Hill September 15 may have been storm-associated. Frederic was probably responsible for a few lingering Bridled Terns in the Mecox-Shinnecock vicinity, as well as maxima of 3 Caspian and 17 Black Terns on Lake Ontario. The conclusion of such an enumeration is: Who says an ill wind blows no good?

#### DIURNAL RAPTOR MOVEMENTS

Accipiters in general were very showy, with every region recording a few or numbers of Goshawks, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks throughout the period. Pitzrick reports a single Goshawk in Region 1, where it is quite rare. Sharp-shins especially seem to have had a banner year as evidenced in Treacy's table and in Spencer's account of the coastal flight. Mack was unique in not having a single record of Cooper's Hawk. Buteos were not extensively commented upon; but, in total seem to have appeared in normal numbers. Rough-legged Hawks had been recorded in virtually every region by the end of the period. Bald Eagles are impressive creatures in terms of size and brilliance anytime; however this autumn they appeared in prodigious numbers and in every region except the Susquehanna (which fact itself is rather surprising). From 24-30+ individual birds were reported, 50%-43% of which were immatures, and 25%-33% of which were adult. Unfortunately, ages of approximately 25% of the total birds were undesignated. Golden Eagles were recorded in Regions 7 and 9. Marsh Hawk totals appear to be down statewide; of 402 reported, 263, or more than half, were recorded at hawk watches in Region 9. This species warrants monitoring. A total of 561 Ospreys was noted in nine regions, with none seen in Genesee. Of these, 75% (420+) were recorded in Region 9. Imagine a total of 73 Peregrine Falcons being reported from six regions this fall!! At the very least it is as-

tonishing and may even be indecent, considering its endangered status. All data should be submitted to regional editors when reporting sight records of this superb falcon. Of the total, 23% were adult, 47% were immature, and 30% were not designated. More than one-half of these birds were observed on Long Island.

#### SHOREBIRDS

In spite of some localized grumbling, 35 species of shorebirds were recorded throughout the state this fall, including such locally rare species as: Baird's Sandpiper (Regions 6 and 9), Curlew Sandpiper (Region 10), Buff-breasted Sandpiper (Regions 1, 2, 3, and 9), Marbled Godwit (Regions 3 and 10), and Hudsonian Godwit (Regions 2, 5, 8 and 10).

#### OWLS

Have birders become blasé about searching out and reporting owls after last winter's plethora, or is there in fact a real shortage? Two Barn Owls, one each from Regions 1 and 10; 20+ Screech Owls from Regions 1, 4 and 10; 9+ Great Horned Owls from Regions 6, 7 and 8; one Snowy Owl from Oneida Lake; 5 Barred Owls, mostly singles, from Regions 2, 3, 4 and 8; two Short-eared Owls, one each from Regions 6 and 10; and a total of 7+ Saw-whet Owls from five regions were reported. For a real surprise, contemplate that not a single Long-eared Owl was reported this autumn and that the Region 9 report contains no owl sightings and no comments on their obvious dearth.

#### LITTLE MONITORED MOVEMENTS

It would be fascinating to see more hard data generated on the Blue Jay migrations mentioned in the Region 5, 6, 8 and 10 reports. Neither the species nor its movements seem to have captured the general imagination of birders. Yet, by virtue of the species' extensive populations, easily recognized plumage and flight characters, and usual conspicuous behavior, its migrations would be relatively easy to document. Chamberlaine mentions a heavy movement of Common Crows along Lake Ontario in October and November and Spahn refers to a large flight of Black-capped Chickadees along Lake Ontario, north of Rochester. Certainly more purposeful coverage and sustained observations would be useful to investigators of these fascinating phenomena. Unsolved questions surrounding the combination of avian and botanical rhythms triggering migration and these species' actual routes, are only two of several potentially productive studies.

## TROUBLESOME TRENDS

Admittedly there is no way of inferring reproductive or fledgling success from watching birds in migration; but scrutinizing the detailed reports should yield some approximate trends of certain species. The following are totals for wren species reported: House, 3 birds; Winter, 15+ birds; Carolina, 11 birds; Long-billed Marsh, 1 bird; and Short-billed Marsh, 4 birds. The figures certainly speak eloquently of a current precipitous drop. Totals of 12 Northern and two Loggerhead Shrikes reported through the period strongly suggest low population levels.

## GYPSIES

The saga of the House Finch continues unabated. Comments like: "Everywhere," "... have become so common ..." "... continues to thrive," "... outnumbers House Sparrows," tend to make one think its survival success and dispersal rate must be at least equal to that of McDonalds or Burger King. Editors will probably stop mentioning them before too long.

## MISSING IN ACTION

The following species were not mentioned in any of the ten reports, although we might have expected an incidental reference or two: Least Bittern, King and Clapper Rails, Piping Plover, Black Skimmer (strange, as this species is especially prone to storm-drift), Long-eared Owl, Hairy and Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers, Least Flycatcher, White-breasted Nuthatch, Prothonotary Warbler, Orchard Oriole, Seaside and Sharp-tailed Sparrows.

## A SUMMING UP

The reports that follow have been compiled with the benefit of 369 named observers, one birding club, and two ornithological societies. Combined they report on 302 full species and one form (Snow Goose—blue morph), out of a possible 417 species, at which number the New York State list now stands. In other words, 72% of the birds recorded to date within the state were sighted and are included in one or more of the reports. This includes those species sighted at Block and Hudson Canyons, but not Cox's Ledge, as prescribed by the New York State Avian Records Committee. Space limitations prohibit a thorough analysis of migration patterns and rare sightings in the Highlights. However, such analysis is not inconceivable. My enthusiastic recommendation is that birders read and re-read all of the reports. Each is thought-provoking and edifying.



## REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

Every season has a beauty and delight all its own, especially for birders, even though this fall's weather was too nice for really good migratory fallouts or for arrival of many northern species which often spend the winter here. Since there was little snow, and lakes and ponds continued open, some birds stayed with us later than usual, but avoided well-stocked feeders as they took advantage of the bumper wild food crop. Although there was a bounty of acorns, cones and wild grapes, the scarcity of rodents, both voles and rabbits, resulted in low raptor numbers.

Temperatures were about normal except for November when a week of unusually warm Indian Summer beginning the 15th raised that month's average 3.3° F. (1.8° C.) higher than usual. Rainfall was near normal even though during October and November there was precipitation on half the days. Because of the cloudy, damp early October, leaves fell early, baring the branches for the regional census day. Then, to make itself memorable and presaging the winter to come, the season cut loose with one "wing-dinger" of a snowstorm November 30th, piling up some three feet of the stuff in and around Buffalo, and making "snow," for those residents, a dirty word.

Positives for the fall were 1) a record fall Whistling Swan flight; 2) improved numbers of the Ruffed Grouse and Turkey and a slightly better count of the Ring-necked Pheasant; 3) good reports of the Red-bellied Woodpecker; 4) slightly better tallies of the Horned Lark; 5) a record Purple Martin nestling date; 6) lots of Black-capped Chickadees; a good flight of the Red-breasted Nuthatch, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Brown Creeper; and a few more Winter Wrens; 7) several late robins; 8) better numbers of the Golden-crowned Kinglet; 9) widespread large flocks of the Cedar Waxwing; 10) an interesting warbler flight; 11) record count of the Red-winged Blackbird; 12) continued proliferation of the House Finch; and 13) a few more Vesper and Swamp Sparrows.

Negatives for the season were 1) low numbers of loons and herons; 2) scarcity of geese and ducks; 3) fewer hawks and owls—no irruption of Rough-legged Hawks and no Snowy Owls; 4) a poor shorebird flight; 5) annual flight of the Common Nighthawk missing and numbers very low; 6) fewer Belted Kingfishers, Downy Woodpeckers and Rough-winged Swallows; 7) continued low tallies for the Tufted Titmouse; no Carolina or Long-billed Marsh Wrens and almost no Mockingbirds; 8) a weak Ruby-crowned Kinglet flight; shrike numbers way down; 9) a poor Rusty Blackbird flight but record high count of the Common Grackle; 10) lower tallies of the American Goldfinch; and absence of most "winter" finches; and 11) reduced numbers of the Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow and Song Sparrow.

Rarities include Glossy Ibis, Mute Swan, Barrow's Goldeneye, Goshawk, Bald Eagle, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Parasitic Jaeger, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Black-headed Gull, Sabine's Gull, Barn Owl, Saw-whet Owl, Common Raven, White-eyed Vireo and Dickcissel.

Abbreviations: BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society; GMA or WMA—Game or Wildlife Management Area; mob—many observers; NP or NS—Nature Preserve or Sanctuary; NWR—National Wildlife Refuge; RC—Regional Bird Census, Oct. 14, directed by the BOS, with H+ = record high, or tied, and L- = lowest since 13 or more years, for fall counts for some species (compiled by B. A. Lown); Res—Reservoir; SF or SP—State Forest or Park.

Contributors: Esther Becker (EsB), Elizabeth Brooks, Sharon Baumgardner, Doris Burton, Lou Burton, Donald Clark, Jane Clark, Betty Compton, John Compton (JCo), Ed Curtis (Weather Data, Wellsville), David Freeland, Helen Graves, Harland Hale, Matthew Hotchkiss, Doris Hurlburt, Norman Ives, Clarence Klingensmith, Erma Larson, Katherine Palmer, Raymond Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Frances Rew, Ann Scott (AnS), Lillian Simons, Bruce Smalley, Robert Sundell, James VanScoy, Regina VanScoy, Larry Wilson; and initialed observers: Robert Andrie, Frederick Meyer ("Bird Notes," *Olean Times Herald*), Alice McKale and Willard McKale.

**LOONS—DUCKS:** Loons were scarce with highest count of the Com. Loon only 15 at Olcott Oct. 27, and of the Red-throated, a single at Olcott Oct. 27 and at nearby Wilson the next day, and one in Niagara F. gorge Nov. 11. Individual Red-necked Grebes were seen at Olcott Oct. 29 and in Niagara F. and R. areas Nov. 2 and 26. In addition to a Double-crested Cormorant on the RC, were three at Barcelona Nov. 11. The only substantiated fall report of a Great Egret was one at Iroquois NWR Sept. 9, while maximum of the Black-crowned Night Heron was but four at Tift Farm during Sept. Only two Am. Bitterns, on the RC, were reported. Exciting for the season was the **GLOSSY IBIS** at Burgeson Sanctuary Oct. 21 and 22 where the bird was watched by a dozen observers and photographed (RS+). A **MUTE SWAN** was identified at Buffalo Sept. 26 (Partridge), and maximum of a splendid Whistling Swan flight was 1000 (!) over Burgeson Sanctuary Nov. 10 (Beals, Grisez), a record fall concentration. Canada Geese numbered only 4006 on the RC and maximum other than the census was 350 at Burgeson Sanctuary Nov. 10, but a fine flight of Brant included high counts of 500 at Ft. Niagara Oct. 27 and 125 at Olcott the same day. The only Snow Geese reported were 48 (blue morph) at Iroquois NWR Nov. 21 and 25. Among noteworthy duck tallies from the RC were: Black Duck, 231; N. Shoveler, nine; Wood Duck, 117; Redhead, 31; Canvasback, five; Greater Scaup, 4420 (highest in 20 years); White-winged Scoter, 73; Surf Scoter, five; Black Scoter, nine; Ruddy Duck, 84; and Com. Merganser, 119 (H+). Some Ring-necked Ducks appeared early: one at Forest Lawn staying on from summer through Sept. (DF+), and six at Iroquois NWR Sept. 9 (AM, WM+). Interesting maximum duck reports, other than the census, include: Mallard, 400 at Burgeson Sanctuary Nov. 10; Gadwall, ten at Iroquois NWR Sept. 30; Blue-winged Teal, 350 at Iroquois NWR Sept. 9; Am. Wigeon, 100 at Iroquois NWR Sept. 9; Wood Duck, 40 at Cuba L. Sept. 17-21; Redhead, two at S. Buffalo Sept. 23 and two at Times Beach Oct. 4; Greater Scaup, 15,000 at Niagara F. Res. Oct. 27; **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE**, one at Niagara F. Nov. 21, 23 and 24 (Wilcove, FR+); White-winged Scoter, 300 at Olcott Oct. 8; Surf Scoter, 12 on the Niagara R. Nov. 4; Black Scoter, 100 at Olcott Oct. 27; Ruddy Duck, 56 at Niagara F. Res. Oct. 27; Hooded Merganser, 70 at Iroquois NWR Nov. 21; and Com. Merganser, singles at Times Beach Sept. 27 and at Cuba L. Nov. 14.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** The only report of a **GOSHAWK** was one at Kennedy Oct. 21 (Gagne *vide* RS). Sharp-shinned Hawks numbered 12 on the RC and 14 were reported from seven areas, while 14 Cooper's Hawks were tallied on the RC and singles were found in but scattered locations. Other noteworthy raptors include: Red-shouldered Hawk, four on the RC and only one other, in Angelica Twp. Sept. 1; Rough-legged Hawk, four on the RC and singles in three areas; **BALD EAGLE**, one, a sub-adult, over Williamsville Sept. 7 (DF) and an immature at Iroquois NWR Sept. 9 (AM, WM+); Marsh Hawk, 30 on the RC and at least 14 reported from 13 locations; Osprey, six on the RC and seven tallied from six areas; and Am. Kestrel, 63 on the RC with fewer other reports than usual. On the RC 46 Ring-necked Pheasants were found and four were noted in Allegany Co. during early Oct. 155 Turkeys were tallied on the RC (H+). A Virginia Rail was spotted at Cuba Marsh Oct. 21 (AnS) and

two Soras appeared for the RC. Of the 44 Am. Golden Plovers on the RC, one was found in Cattaraugus Co., uncommon for the Southern Tier. Other notes of interest from the shore-bird flight include: Ruddy Turnstone, four on the RC; Am. Woodcock, five on the RC (L-); Com. Snipe, five on the RC (lowest in 21 years); Pectoral Sandpiper, 18 on the RC and maximum 25 at Clarence Sept. 8 (DF); White-rumped Sandpiper, one on the RC, found in Cattaraugus Co. (JV, RV); and Baird's Sandpiper, one at Clarence Sept. 8 (DF). An extraordinary find for the season was the **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER**: three at Clarence Sept. 16 (AM, WM), one in Newstead Sept. 16 (AM, WM) and one again at Clarence Sept. 22 (DF). The **PARASITIC JAEGER** found at Olcott Oct. 27 (DF) is probably the same individual as seen at Wilson the next day (RA+). A **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** was identified at Niagara F. Oct. 29 (Ridout), Nov. 2 (FR, Schwartz, Ulrich), and Nov. 23 (FR, Frank). Other noteworthy larid reports include: Great Black-backed Gull, 83 at Niagara F. Nov. 29 (Axtell); **BLACK-HEADED GULL**, one over Niagara F. Nov. 2 (FR); Franklin's Gull, at least a dozen in Buffalo and Niagara R. areas irregularly through the season; Bonaparte's Gull, a record 60,000 on the Niagara R. Oct. 28 (Ridout+); Little Gull, no less than 15 birds at Buffalo and along the Niagara R. through early Nov.; and **SABINE'S GULL**, one on Oct. 15 (Ridout) and two on Nov. 17 and 18 (Axtell) over Niagara F. and R., all immature birds.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: The only cuckoo reports were one Yellow-billed Oct. 10 and a Black-billed Sept. 9, both banded at Farmersville Sta. (DC). An adult **BARN OWL** was seen in Granger Twp., Allegany Co., Oct. 21 to 26 where three yg. were photographed in the nest this past summer by Debby Myers; one of the three fledglings was found dead here in late Sept. (KP). Seldom reported any more is the Screech Owl; five were tallied for the RC and singles were found near Alfred Oct. 1 (EB) and at Farmersville Sta. Oct. 22 (DC). A **SAW-WHET OWL** appeared at Farmersville Sta. Oct. 20 (DC). The last report for the season of the Chimney Swift was one Oct. 19 at Jamestown (Gagne), and a very late Ruby-throated Hummingbird was seen near Salamanca Oct. 27 (FM). Unusual tallies on the RC were: Belted Kingfisher, 49 (L-), and Downy Woodpecker, 156 (L-), but Red-bellied Woodpecker, ten (H+); singles of the last species were seen in Orchard Park and Iroquois NWR during Nov. Five Red-headed Woodpeckers were found for the RC and nine others, total, appeared in five areas.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS**: Staying late were two E. Kingbirds at Cuba Marsh Sept. 29 (SB, M. Scott+) and an E. Wood Pewee, banded at Farmersville Sta. Oct. 19 (DC). A single Olive-sided Flycatcher was noted near Olean in early Sept. (mob *vide* FM). On River-view Heights, Wellsville, two pairs of Purple Martins were still feeding nestlings at Dan Nicholson's Sept. 5 (EL)—three weeks past the State record date! Two **COMMON RAVENS** were seen at Little Genesee Oct. 7 (DeGroff) where they have been noted in previous years, and one was watched over the Allegheny R. near Olean Oct. 14 (FM). The Tufted Titmouse was absent on the RC for the first time in 21 years, but other reports of mostly singles totaled ten birds. Also missing on the RC was the Mockingbird, for the first time in 16 years, and the only other reports were of six birds, total, from four locations. A Gray Catbird at an Allentown feeder in Allegany Co. Nov. 20 (LS) may be planning to spend the winter here. On the RC, the Brown Thrasher was absent for the first time in 17 years and only two Wood Thrushes were found (L-), but one of the latter stayed late in Amity Twp. until Oct. 25 (DB, LB). Other notable thrush reports include: an albino Am. Robin at Amity L. Oct. 26, and a flock of 40, typical of the species, at E. Amherst Nov. 29, and a late Swainson's Thrush at Tift Farm Oct. 21 (Freelands). Only 66 E. Bluebirds were located for the RC (L-) but other birders located a total of at least 80 birds from 14 locations. Shrikes were scarce, the only reports being single N. Shrikes at Hartfield Nov. 16 (RS) and at Clarence Nov. 25 (AM, WM), and a Loggerhead in Olean over the weekend of Labor Day (FM).

**VIREOS-WARBLERS**: Few can expect so delightful a surprise as the **WHITE-EYED VIREO**, unusual here any time of year, banded near Alfred Oct. 1 (EB)—but who knows



what is being overlooked? The only report of the Philadelphia Vireo was one at Times Beach Oct. 4 (RA). Some accents from the warbler flight were: Tennessee Warbler, one, late, banded near Alfred Oct. 24 (EB); Orange-crowned Warbler, one on the RC; N. Parula, four, totaled from three areas; Chestnut-sided Warbler, absent on the RC for the first time in 13 years; Bay-breasted Warbler, one, late, at Tift Farm Oct. 21 (Freelands); Blackpoll Warbler, one at Niagara F. Oct. 20 (Freelands); Palm Warbler, two on the RC (L-); N. Waterthrush, three banded at Farmersville Sta. in early Sept. (DC); Connecticut Warbler, one at 4-mi. Creek SP Sept. 16 (Freelands); Yellow-breasted Chat, one in Hume Twp., Allegany Co., Sept. 5 (KP)—rarely reported these days; and Hooded Warbler, one in Friendship Sept. 17 (BC).

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS:** Establishing a regional record was the report of an estimated 40,000 *each* of Red-winged Blackbirds and Com. Grackles at E. Amherst Oct. 22 (DF). On the RC the Rusty Blackbird tally was only 160 (lowest in 21 years) and but 19 others of the species were reported. A **DICKCISSEL** was identified at a feeder in Holland Nov. 30 (EsB), and an exceptionally early Evening Grosbeak male appeared in Jamestown Sept. 20 (Gagne *vide* RS). The House Finch continues to thrive; highest counts were 30 on the RC (H+) and 30 at Eggertsville Nov. 1-30 (AM, WM). Noteworthy as "L" on the RC were: Am. Goldfinch, 1044; Rufous-sided Towhee, 30; and Savannah Sparrow, eight (lowest in 20 years). While a two-week late Grasshopper Sparrow was spotted for the RC, the seven Tree Sparrows on the census were a day early. Few Fox Sparrows were noted: seven on the RC, and singles at Beaver Meadow Oct. 30 (EsB), in Orchard Park Nov. 3 (Saville), and in Wellsville Nov. 26 and 28 (EL). Also, not many Lincoln's Sparrows were found: four on the RC, two at Tift Farm Sept. 23 (DF+), two at Limestone irregularly Sept. 30 to Oct. 15 (JV, RV), and one, banded late, at the latter location Oct. 27 (RV). A Swamp Sparrow was spotted at Beaver Is. SP Nov. 25 (Klabundes). The first Snow Buntings for the season arrived at Bemus Pt. Oct. 27 (Beal).

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

## REGION TWO — GENESEE

ROBERT SPAHN

This fall's weather was generally warmer than average with approximately average rainfall, the latter statement clearly indicating the classic fallacy of reporting only averages; as over half this rainfall occurred in one day, Sept. 14, as part of the passage of the end of hurricane Frederick. September was slightly cooler than the long-term average with few movements of weather systems except for David and Frederick which each brought far higher expectations than observations to this region. October seesawed from the first signs of winter to a return to summer—highs 76 to 82° F. (24 to 27° C.), Oct. 19-23. There were several excellent birding dates, Oct. 2, 6, 9, and 27. The final month of the season clung to Indian Summer and early Fall day after day. Birders gathered on the lakeshore on weekends hearing tales of NW storms which would bring jaegers and kittiwakes. The longed-for weather failed to appear, but many good records resulted anyway. The month reached the 28th averaging 3.2° F. (1.8° C.) above normal before a cold snap set in. Snowfall was at a 25-year low, only 1.4 in. (3.6 cm).

In spite of the abnormally warm Fall, there were relatively few lingering passerines this year. Generally birding the woodlands was dismal. Many observers turned nearly full attention to Lake Ontario and the immediately adjacent land. For the persistent or lucky this paid off in interesting records. There were good loon and waterfowl flights, including some rarities; several shorebird surprises appeared; jaegers did pass, though not in numbers approaching those of our neighbors to the east; an alcid zipped by, probably a regular seasonal occurrence if the vigil were more constant; and a few passerine rarities were noted. Given a fairly good wild food crop, particularly notable for their absence by late Fall, were lingering thrushes, Yellow-rumped (or other) warblers, and winter finches in what should be a good finch year by historical cycles. How far do we run up the red flag for the missing volume of fall passerine migrants? Most were present in numbers for only a day or two, at best, during this season of leisurely retreat. Did they pass elsewhere or were they unobserved?

Positives for the season include: a good loon flight, especially Red-throated; good numbers of scaup, Buffleheads, and scoters; a large flock of Am. Golden Plovers with assorted hangers-on; and a great rebound for both kinglets, everywhere in numbers over an extended period. Negatives include: very few Canvasbacks or Redheads; few reports of Ring-necked Pheasants; poor habitat for most shorebirds; and only isolated or low count records of many passerine species.

Rarities: Gannet, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Harlequin Duck, Hudsonian Godwit, Parasitic Jaeger, Pomarine Jaeger, Franklin's Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, alcid sp., Western Kingbird, Bohemian Waxwing, Kentucky Warbler, Dickcissel.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock Bay; D—Durand-Eastman Park; H—Hamlin Beach State Park and vicinity; IC—Island Cottage Woods, Greece, N.Y.; IBO—Irondequoit Bay outlet to Lake Ontario; PB—Point Breeze; and WL—West Lakeshore.

Observers: Jean Browning, Nancy Boudrie, Carolyn & Roger Cass, Julie Claffey, Anne Clarridge, Roger Clark, Bill Colman, Helen & Ralph Dakin, Mike Davids, Fritz Davis, Gertrude Davis, Frank & Robert Dobson, Jeff & Joan Dodge, Jim & Kay Doris, Arleen & John Foster, Dick Garnham, Genesee Ornithological Society, Paul Gillen, Kevin Griffith, Robert & Sandra Hazen, Norm Henderson, Øivind Jensen, Doug Keim<sup>1</sup>, Allen & Bea Kemnitzer, Bob & Jane Kesselring, Allan & Sandy Klonick, James Lenhard<sup>1</sup>, David Levy, Walter Listman, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Peg Magee, Frank & Mary Mattei, Robert & Margaret McKinney, Mike McKeon, Gordon Meade, Hyde Miller, Ann Miranian, Laura & Neil Moon, Jane Morris, Richard O'Hara, Chip Perrigo, Pat Reister, Rochester Birding Association, Marge Schmale, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne & Sharon Skelly, Durward & Lillian Skiff, Robert & Susan Spahn, Ann Stear, Alison Stewart, Harriet Stride, Allen, Brian, Dan, David, & Grace Strong<sup>1</sup>, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Bill Symonds, Steve Taylor, David, Mike & Tom Tetlow, Ann & Joe Watson, Eleanor Weld, Paul Weld, Kinsley Whittum<sup>1</sup>, Munro Will, Doris Wilton, Alice Wood, Peter Zachmann, and Domenick Zero. (P.O.S. = 1).

LOONS—DUCKS: This Fall's loon flight was very good both for numbers and duration. Peak counts were: Com. Loon: 300 H Oct. 28; and 232 PB Nov. 7; and Red-throated Loon: 358 H Nov. 11 (AK, BS, mob), in 3½ hours, on a bright, mild day with light SW winds, typical of the higher counts of the past (AK). Grebes appeared in average numbers with only a scattering of Red-necked Grebe: max four Webster Oct. 20. Possibly a delayed result of hurricane David was GANNET: two Kendall Sept. 9 (R & SS), also a very early date. A few Double-crested Cormorants were seen thru the season with peak counts: 20 BB Oct. 19 (NH); 14 Charlotte Oct. 20; and 14 Sodus Bay Oct. 27, probably the same group drifting eastward. The heron family was most noticeable in its scarcity of records: Great Egret tar-



ried a bit: one BB Oct. 19-23; and Green Heron: one Pittsford Nov. 3, was late. Waterfowl provided many interesting records with particularly good numbers among the diving ducks: Whistling Swan: 38 PB Nov. 10, a good Fall count; and two BB Nov. 29 thru, late; Brant: max. 5000 Manitou Oct. 27 (WLi, MAS, BC, mob); Snow Goose: three imm. H Oct. 27-30; **FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK**: two IBO Nov. 30 (RS), passing birds at close range, a Regional first; Mallard: 800 H Nov. 7; and 900 H Nov. 22; Black Duck: 400 H Nov. 27, a good number for recent years; Greater Scaup: 2000 Sodus Bay Oct. 27, in one quarter hour, headed west; and 4000 H Oct. 27, about one hour after the Sodus Bay count, still headed west; Bufflehead: max 1500 H Nov. 10 (AK, ST), good numbers were present over an extended period and that day over the whole Regional lakeshore, though this count is only at one point; **HARLEQUIN DUCK**: one fem. H Oct. 14 (CP, RC, BS, MD, KG), a record early date; and two, a female and an imm. male, H Oct. 27 thru (MD, mob); White-winged Scoter: max 1000+ WL Nov. 11; Surf Scoter: five BB Sept. 22, early; Black Scoter: max 200 H Oct. 30; and Ruddy Duck: 44 Greece Oct. 30; and 32 D Nov. 11, both good counts locally.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS**: Raptor records of note were few, typical of Fall. Turkey Vulture: one BB Nov. 6, was late. Accipiters were dominated by Sharp-shinned Hawk reports with a very few Cooper's Hawks and Goshawks. A remnant of the Fall Red-tailed Hawk movement was: 210 Manitou Sept. 2. Rough-legged Hawk: one Kendall Sept. 15 (ST); and one Carlton Sept. 16 (GOS), both dark-phased, were probably the same very early bird. Two Bald Eagles were noted: one imm Greece Sept. 15 (NH); and one imm. Kendall Nov. 24 (POS). Among the falcons, only two Merlins were reported and three Peregrine Falcons: Webster Sept. 8 (WLi); PB Sept. 23 (WLi, CP); and H Oct. 4 (RC, BS). Marsh bird records suffered, as usual, from a lack of dedicated sloggers. Am. Coot: 100 Northrup Creek Nov. 10, was a good number, from the road. In spite of the very poor shorebird habitat during the early part of the season, there were many interesting reports: Am. Golden Plover: 450 H Sept. 29-30 (CP, BS, AK); max 512 H Oct. 1 (CP); and 350 H Oct. 21; Whimbrel: three PB Sept. 2 (MD, HM); Upland Sandpiper: one Kendall Sept. 15, late; Spotted Sandpiper: one H Oct. 19, late; Red Knot: one Charlotte Oct. 16, 29 (NH), the latter a record inland late date; Purple Sandpiper: one H Oct. 31 (BS); one Charlotte Nov. 3 (MD, mob); and one Summerville Nov. 10 (R & SH, NH, RL); Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one Kendall Sept. 1 (RO, R & CC); two Kendall Sept. 3 (KG, mob); one Webster Sept. 16-18 (WLi, mob), the first on the east side in many years; and two H Sept. 30-Oct. 1 (BS, mob); and **HUDSONIAN GODWIT**: one Charlotte Sept. 30 (CP, RC); and six H Nov. 14 (BS), a reward for lakeshore vigil. Among the gulls and terns we have: **PARASITIC JAEGER**: two Greece Sept. 22 (WLi, ST); one Manitou Sept. 27 (NH, RL); one H Oct. 7 (CP, BS); one H Oct. 8 (KG, MD); one H Oct. 14 (CP, mob); and one H Nov. 4 (BS); **POMARINE JAEGER**: three ad. H Oct. 14 (CP, mob); one BB Nov. 4 (WLi); and one H Nov. 14 (BS); Glaucous Gull: one imm. Pultneyville Nov. 4, first of the season; Iceland Gull: one ad. Pultneyville Nov. 12, only one of the season; **FRANKLIN'S GULL**: one imm. IBO Nov. 17 thru (JeD, AK, mob); Little Gull: one ad. Greece Sept. 22, first of the season; eight ad., one imm. IBO Nov. 25; and 10 ad. IBO Nov. 23, high counts; **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**: one imm. Greece Nov. 2 (KG); and Com. Tern: one Charlotte area Oct. 29-31, late. One unidentified alcid buzzed past Hamlin Beach Nov. 14. The size, flight, and general dark appearance suggested a murre. It is probable that individual alcids are regular, scarce visitors along the lakeshore.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: A very late Black-billed Cuckoo was: Northhampton Park Nov. 5 (FD), still calling, a record inland late date; Barred Owl was noted in the usual locale, H. H. Spencer Park above Honeoye Lake; Saw-whet Owl: one Greece Oct. 29; and one BB Nov. 5, is infrequently reported in the Fall; Whip-poor-will: one Sodus Bay Oct. 13 (WLi, RC), was very late.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS**: The aftermath of Frederick left a **WESTERN KING-BIRD**: H Sept. 15 (MD, KG); another individual two weeks later was 15 miles west: at Carlton Sept. 29 (FD, R & JK). Swallows were represented by a typical peak, Tree Swallow: 3000 Greece Oct. 21; and a late E. Wood Pewee: IC Oct. 16. A roost yielded Com. Crow:

800+ Brighton Nov. Two observers briefly counted a flight of Black-capped Chickadee: 300 BB Oct. 22; and 400+ Manitou Oct. 22, in a half-hour period. A record late date inland was House Wren: one Greece Oct. 27 (R & SS). There were only three Carolina Wrens reported for the season. Among the thrushes were: Wood Thrush one D Oct. 20, late; and one Rochester Oct. 21, later; and Eastern Bluebird: 24 Groveland Sept. 29, a high count for recent years. The lone No. Shrike for the season was: one imm. Pultneyville Nov. 25. Again a single was **BOHEMIAN WAXWING**: Brockport Nov. 14 (CP).

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS**: A Red-eyed Vireo: IC Oct. 20, was very late. A typical Fall passage of Orange-crowned Warbler was: one IC Sept. 23 (RM); one Greece Sept. 23 (WLI); one IC Sept. 24 (ST); and one Manitou Oct. 7 (RO, PW). Late or unusual records of other Fall warblers included: Tennessee Warbler: one Penfield Nov. 3 (POS); Yellow Warbler: one Livonia Sept. 23; Chestnut-sided Warbler: one IC Oct. 26 (NH), an inland record late date; Pine Warbler: one Webster Sept. 6; and one Livonia Oct. 3; Ovenbird: one Penfield Nov. 1 (POS), late, found dead; and one IC Nov. 10 (NH), very late; **KENTUCKY WARBLER**: one imm. IC Sept. 19 (NH), late; and Am. Redstart: one Manitou Oct. 27, late.

**WEAVERS-SPARROWS**: A good-sized flock of Eastern Meadowlark was: 20 Greece Oct. 6. A late Indigo Bunting was: BB Oct. 3. Among a large flock of sparrows roaming west Webster was **DICKCISSEL**: one imm. Webster Nov. 1 thru (A & BK, R & SS, mob). An early Evening Grosbeak was: one BB Sept. 28. House Finch continues to spread with: two Greece Nov. 15 thru, a new location. Hope of an expected winter finch invasion was misplaced in Pine Grosbeak: seven Webster Oct. 20 (RS), early; one H Oct. 21 (GOS), early; five H Nov. 5; and two D Nov. 18; and Pine Siskin: ten WL Sept. 23 (R & MM), early migrants. Sparrows provided a few records of interest: Savannah Sparrow: one H thru Oct. 27, very late; Chipping Sparrow: one Brighton Nov. (J & JD), a feeder straggler; White-crowned Sparrow: one Webster Sept. 16 (MAS), very early; and Fox Sparrow: one Webster Sept. 22 (RS); and one Webster Sept. 23 (WLI), both very early. Snow Bunting appeared along the lakeshore at typical October dates, but 500 Carlton Oct. 27 (R & SS), was a very high count for so early. 716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580

## REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

The Fall season started out with a very warm week and closed with the temperature well above normal, rising to 65 degrees F. Mid-month September and October and early November were below normal but the average for the season was above. Precipitation was a bit over normal but included only one-half inch of snow.

The Elmira TV tower kill during September totaled over 200 birds of twenty-three species including three species of thrushes and thirteen of warblers. Of the eighty warblers killed, thirty were Blackpolls.

Seasonal pluses: 1. an unbelievable 500 Double-crested Cormorants seen migrating over Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; 2. increased reports of Brant; 3. an estimated 100,000 ducks resting at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge at the peak of migration; 4. an abundance of gulls; 5. a good movement of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers; 6. an upswing in Winter Wrens after low numbers; 7. some increase in kinglets; 8. continued build-up of House Finches; 9. an enormous

flock of an estimated 2,000 sparrows migrating at Ithaca, composed mainly of Chipping, White-crowned and White-throated, with some Field and Song Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos and one Clay-colored Sparrow; 10. at least a suggestion of a turn around in the drastic decline of the Vesper Sparrow.

Seasonal minuses: 1. continued mention of reduced sightings of Red-tailed Hawks and Am. Kestrels; 2. very, very few reports of Ring-necked Pheasants; 3. few reports of rails; 4. a poor shorebirding season due to lack of suitable habitat anywhere in the Region; 5. very meager Com. Nighthawk migration; 6. almost complete absence of Red-breasted Nuthatch reports; 7. no No. Shrikes; 8. while twenty-three species of warblers were reported, the common complaint was that there were so few of them, with only the Yellow-rumped showing any abundance; 9. a scarcity of Rusty Blackbirds; 10. a very minimal number of Tree Sparrows, possibly due to unseasonably warm weather in November; 11. a virtual absence of winter finches except for some Evening Grosbeaks; 12. a generally poor sparrow migration except for the jackpot flock at Ithaca, noted above.

Rarities: Red-throated Loon, Sandhill Crane, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Forster's Tern, Fish Crow, White-eyed Vireo, Lark Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow.

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; Co—county; L—lake; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Pk—park; seminar—weekly Laboratory of Ornithology seminar; Sen—Seneca; \* (starred)—details on file.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: 93 Aurora Oct. 30. **RED-THROATED LOON**: a very early migrant Ithaca Oct. 3 (D. Sibley)\*. Double-crested Cormorant: one to three at MNWR during Sept.; one Ithaca Oct. 3; a remarkable flight of 500 observed going south over MNWR on Nov. 13 by Tony Leger of the Refuge personnel. Cattle Egret: one at Union Springs Oct. 3 (T. Rawinski) for the only report of the year. Great Egret: one to three at MNWR until Oct. 26. Whistling Swan: one on a pond east of Bath; one at MNWR Nov. 15-18; Canada Goose: large flocks over Elmira Sept. 20-23; 13,000 migrating at Ithaca Oct. 7; max. 40,000 MNWR Oct. 31. Brant: more than the usual number of reports of this uncommon species. 50 seen flying over Ellis Hollow near Ithaca Oct. 18 (D. Brann); one to five imm. at MNWR Oct. 21-Nov. 24; one imm. Ithaca Oct. 25-26; six Watkins Glen Oct. 30; four Myers Point Oct. 31. Snow Goose: 100 MNWR late Oct; large flock on L Salubria east of Bath.

Ducks: maximum counts at MNWR as made by the Refuge personnel:

Mallard	40,000	Oct. 31	Wood Duck	2,100	Sep. 30
Black Duck	5,000	Oct. 31	Redhead	200	Nov. 30
Gadwall	2,000	Oct. 31	Ring-necked Duck	120	Oct. 31
Pintail	500	Oct. 31	Canvasback	50	Oct. 31
Green-winged Teal	3,000	Oct. 31	Bufflehead	75	Nov. 30
Blue-winged Teal	3,000	Sep. 30	Ruddy Duck	75	Nov. 30
American Wigeon	10,000	Sep. 30	Common Merganser	250	Nov. 30
Northern Shoveler	1,200	Sep. 30	Hooded Merganser	150	Nov. 30

Gadwall: six at Elmira Oct. 11 where they are uncommon. Wood Duck: 12 Watkins marsh Sept. 30. Redhead: arrived early on Keuka L; a few on Cay L Nov. 18. Ring-necked Duck; one Ithaca Oct. 26. Canvasback: arrived early on Keuka L; 800 Cay L Pk and 50 Ithaca Nov.



18. Bufflehead: up to ten Elmira Nov. 3-9. Oldsquaw: one Ithaca Oct. 25; ten Sen L Oct. 27 thru the period; several Aurora Nov. 18. Surf Scoter: 12 Ithaca Oct. 25 and one Nov. 29; female at Sheldrake Nov. 18. Com. Scoter: eight at Elmira Oct. 30. Ruddy Duck: two at Ithaca Nov. 7-26; ten Sen L end of Nov. Hooded Merganser: 20 Waneta L Nov. 28. Com. Merganser: 13 at Bath Sept. 21.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: 11 migrants east of Varna Oct. 19; two Clyde Oct. 21. Goshawk: reported at seminars thru Nov. 15; 2 MNWR Nov. 15. Sharp-shinned Hawk: seminars thru Nov. 5; one at Elmira Nov. 13 chasing pigeons. Cooper's Hawk: one around feeder at Clyde Oct. 29; thru Nov. 11 seminar. Red-shouldered Hawk: one report at Oct. 15 seminar. Broad-winged Hawk: single late birds at MNWR Nov. 3 and 21. Rough-legged Hawk: one MNWR Oct. 15; one Clyde Nov. 5. Bald Eagle: young birds hacked at MNWR this summer hung around thru Oct.; one imm. Moravia Oct. 23; imm. bird sighted at Stanley Oct. 27 stayed for a month. Marsh Hawk: scattered reports of one or two birds thru Oct. from MNWR, Phelps, Ithaca and Watkins Glen. Osprey: sightings from MNWR, Ithaca and Elmira thru mid-Oct. Turkey: several seen frequently at a farm near Horseheads. **SANDHILL CRANE:** one at a farm near Glenora, Yates Co. for about six weeks. Last seen Oct. 25. Photograph by JB on file. Com. Gallinule: a late bird at MNWR Oct. 23. Am. Coot: 1500 max. at MNWR; large numbers Cay L State Pk; wintering at Watkins Glen in increasing numbers with 41 there Oct. 30. Semipalmated Plover: singles on Savannah mucklands Sept. 1 and at Ithaca Sept. 20. Killdeer: 90 Harris Hill, Elmira Sept. 14-15. Am. Golden Plover: Ithaca Sept. 20 and Nov. 26 seminar, both were reports of birds heard flying over. Greater Yellowlegs: two at Horseheads Oct. 5 eating earthworms on highway during heavy rain. Lesser Yellowlegs: 12 Savannah mucklands Sept. 1. Least Sandpiper: 18 MNWR Oct. 16. Dunlin: 60 MNWR Oct. 23. Short-billed Dowitcher: 15 Waterloo dump Sept. 11. Long-billed Dowitcher: five MNWR Sept. 29. Stilt Sandpiper: a late bird at MNWR Oct. 22. **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER:** one Horseheads Oct. 5 (WH). **MARBLED GODWIT:** one MNWR Oct. 19 (H. Axtell)\*. Ring-billed Gull: 125 Bath Sept. 25; usual hundreds at Waterloo dump. Bonaparte's Gull: a few reported from MNWR, Ithaca and Elmira. **FORSTER'S TERN:** two in winter plumage Ithaca Oct. 25 (D. Sibley). Caspian Tern: eight at Watkins Glen Sept. 3; three Ithaca Sept. 8.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** Black-billed Cuckoo: one Reeder's Creek, Sen. Co. Sept. 1 (BH). Barred Owl: one Elmira Sept. 5 (MW) first in the area in several years. Saw-whet Owl: one along Six Mile Creek, Ithaca Oct. 11 (SS). Com. Nighthawk: singles Elmira Sept. 6 and Sept. 30. The latter was a late bird and was observed flying low in front of cars as they crossed the Walnut St. bridge. Chimney Swift: 100 Elmira Sept. 21. Red-headed Woodpecker: singles at Second Milo thru the period, Clyde thru Nov. 6 and Phelps Nov. 7-30. All were imm. birds at feeders. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: good migration.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** Eastern Kingbird: one Ithaca Sept. 30 rather late. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Ithaca in late Sept. (SS). Eastern Pewee: one Ithaca Oct. 9 late (M. Shepherd). Olive-sided Flycatcher: singles Ithaca Sept. 9 and 15. Rough-winged Swallow: a very late individual at Ithaca Nov. 9 (J. Hines). **FISH CROW:** four birds seen thru Nov. 17 at Ithaca (D. Sibley, M. Shepherd, DM). Red-breasted Nuthatch: only reports were one at Watkins Glen Sept. 22 and at Sept. 24 seminar. Winter Wren: one Sept. 30 and several thereafter at Reeder's Creek; reported regularly thru the Oct. 15 seminar. Carolina Wren: one Watkins Glen Nov. 10; two to three thru the period at Ithaca. Mockingbird: one Clyde Nov. 8; one Phelps Nov. 14 and 24; population stable at Elmira. Gray Catbird: late individuals at Elmira Nov. 4 and Ithaca Nov. 11. Brown Thrasher: a late bird at Southport Nov. 3. Hermit Thrush: several reports thru Nov. 1. Swainson's Thrush: one Ithaca Nov. 6 late. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one Clyde Sept. 27, seminars thru Oct. 8. Eastern Bluebird: reported at seminars Sept. 24-Oct. 15; small flock Elmira Sept. 27; up to four near Clyde until Nov. 18. Golden-crowned Kinglet: Phelps Oct. 10; many Reeder's Creek Oct. 13; in a mixed flock of 40 on Connecticut Hill Oct. 21; at MNWR Oct. 30; low numbers at Ithaca. Ruby-

crowned Kinglet: Phelps Oct. 10; MNWR Oct. 10 and 30; fair numbers at Ithaca. Water Pipit: only reports were of 100 plus in Varick Township, Seneca Co. and some large flocks at Phelps. No. Shrike: none reported.

**VIREOS-WARBLED: WHITE-EYED VIREO:** the pair that spent the summer in Ithaca were seen into Sept. Philadelphia Vireo: one Clyde Sept. 12 and 18; seminar Sept. 24. Warblers: Tennessee: Nov. 5 seminar late. Nashville: Nov. 5 seminar late. Yellow: Oct. 15 seminar late. Yellow-rumped: the only warbler reported in any numbers. Pine: two singing Harris Hill, Elmira, Sept. 27 (WH). Wilson's: several reports from Clyde, Varick, Ithaca, Watkins Glen.

**WEAVERS-SPARROWS:** Eastern Meadowlark: at Horseheads large flocks with many singing were seen Sept. 28 and 50 on Nov. 2; large flock Waterloo Oct. 6. Rusty Blackbird: reported from MNWR and Ithaca but small numbers only. Com. Grackle: albino at Phelps Oct. 5. Evening Grosbeak: first seen at Elmira Oct. 24 and at Ithaca, Seneca Falls and Clyde thereafter, mostly in small numbers but with a flock of 200 at Ithaca. Purple Finch: three Clyde Oct. 10; two to three Elmira Oct. 24-Nov. 4; no other reports. House Finch: where this species is established comments ranged from "more abundant" to "everywhere"; in Seneca Falls (a new area) 24 at the Keating's feeder Nov. 28 (PHK). Pine Siskin: a single report of a single bird at Ithaca Nov. 4. Rufous-sided Towhee: one at Clyde feeder to Oct. 25 and one at Elmira feeder Nov. 27. Sparrows: Savannah: groups at Horseheads Sept. 28; 50 Ithaca Oct. 15. **LARK SPARROW:** singing male Ithaca Sept. 5 (SS)\*. Tree: very scarce; earliest one Ithaca Sept. 30 (T. Rawinski). **CLAY-COLORED:** Ithaca Oct. 16 in a flock of about 2,000 sparrows (SS)\*. Field: only a few reports. White-crowned: while a good migration was reported from Ithaca, other areas found this species scarce, such as only one bird reported at Elmira. White-throated: good at Ithaca but poor elsewhere. Fox: two Phelps Oct. 1 early; more than usual reports at seminars; one at Watkins end of Nov. Lincoln: one Ithaca Sept. 9 (J. Hines) early; one in Elmira TV tower kill Oct. 11. Lapland Longspur: one heard at Ithaca Nov. 18 only report. Snow Bunting: 3 Union Springs Oct. 6 (R. Howard); two Sen L State Pk Oct. 27; one MNWR Oct. 31; one Reeder's Creek Nov. 3; a few in Nov. at Ithaca.

R.D. 2, Clyde, New York 14433

## REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

The Fall of 1979 started out on the cool side, but average temperatures hadn't changed much by the end of November, so the season as a whole was decidedly mild. November 23, the day after Thanksgiving, was exceptional and would have been warm for September. Skies were overcast a good deal of the time and rain was frequent although for the most part light. The fact that it so often rained on Fridays and Saturdays is probably responsible for the impression that it was a wet Fall. Two short two to three day periods about a week apart in early October, when the sun shone continuously, was our Indian Summer.

In keeping with the lack of wide variations in the weather, the thrush-vireo-warbler part of the migration proceeded without much in the way of sharp peaks, and those peaks that did occur were of one species or in one area at a time. Much of the data was from two banding stations in southwestern Binghamton and



northeastern Vestal, operated more or less continuously, which would tend to flatten out the normal weekend peaks. However, there did seem to be a peak of sparrows October 14 to 20 that was apparent in several areas.

The mildness of the season might have led us to expect some late stragglers. In fact, only a late October Cape May Warbler was substantially later than the expected extreme date for its species. Several others, e.g. Tree Swallow, Black-and-white Warbler and Eastern Wood Pewee, were later than usual but within their expected extremes.

The top rarity of the season was a well-described Peregrine Falcon. Other good records include a Double-crested Cormorant, an American Golden Plover and two Connecticut Warblers, all with either written or verbal details. It is difficult to know how seriously we should take a second Peregrine, a Merlin, a White-eyed Vireo and a Yellow-headed Blackbird, all without details of any kind, even when they come from trusted observers.

Observers: Bertram Anderson, Cutler & Jeanette Baldwin, Reynolds Bennett (RB), Bruce Bozdos, Salley Carey, Geoffrey Carleton (GeC), Lynn Clark, Mildred Clark (MC), Gail Corderman (GC), Dorothy Crumb (DC), Anna & Marilyn Davis (A, MD), Warren & Louise Dean (W, LD), Mary Dobinsky, Sadie Dorber, Diane Drabo, Polly & Earl Getkin, John Gustafson, Elva Hawken (EH), Jim & Kathy Hoteling (J, KH), Paul Kelsey (PK), Margaret Layton, Jay Lehman (JL), Arthur Levy (AL), Florence Linaberry, Bob Long (BL), Leona McDowell, Harriet Marsi (HM), Rick Marsi (RM), Bud & Evelyn Mead, C. Norte (CN), Francis O'Leary, Robert & Rita Pantle, Booth Perkins, Beverly Prince, James Riley, Harriet Robinson, Randy Ross, Fritz Scheider (FS), Mary Sheffield (MS), Kenneth Stalter (KS), Ann Whitaker, Connie Wilkins (CW), Beryl & Tom Wilson (B, TW), Kathryn Wilson (KW).

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: reported at Whitney Point Nov. 10 to 18; five max. Nov. 10. Horned Grebe: one Owego Nov. 1, first of season; approx. 30 at Whitney Point Nov. 3, max. Pied-billed Grebe: Oct. 10 Chenango Valley State Park; three Portlandville-Milford area Oct. 27; small numbers at Whitney Point Oct. 27 to Nov. 10. Double-crested Cormorant: one Whitney Point Oct. 26 (AL), the only one; infrequently reported in the Region and usually in the spring. Great Blue Heron: two Milford-Cooperstown Nov. 17 and one Owego Nov. 21, the only ones after Nov. 2; frequent reports of one to four birds all during Sept. and Oct. Green Heron: one Sept. 23 Upper Lisle, above Whitney Point, the last date. Great Egret: Sept. 13 Owego swamp. Whistling Swan: four Upper Lisle Nov. 7 (RM), no others. Canada Goose: 26 on pond at German, in Chenango Co., about Sept. 15, over 100 flying over Cortland Sept. 19 and 75 over Norwich Sept. 19 were the earliest migrants reported; heavy flights were regularly noted from Sept. 22 to Oct. 16 — Oct. 13 "there must have been 1000" on the Whitney Point Reservoir, coming and going; 560 over Choconut Center Oct. 6 and over 500 over Oxford Nov. 3; 50 at Cortland Nov. 4, the last ones. Snow Goose: 35 Oneonta Nov. 5 (KW); also reported Nov. 17 Owego (RB). Black Duck: one, with 20 Mallards, Oct. 13 Endwell; two with 18 Mallards Nov. 10 Portlandville; one Sept. 18 Portlandville; also one report from Owego, but that's all. Canvasback: Nov. 3 Whitney Point, the only report so far this year. Lesser Scaup: Oct. 31 Delhi, scaup (sp?): Nov. 3 Whitney Point. Com. Goldeneye: ten Whitney Point Nov. 10, first fall report. Bufflehead: Oct. 27 Whitney Point, first date, and present in small numbers to at least Nov. 17; also reported from Owego. Oldsquaw: four appeared at Whitney Point Nov. 3; one at Milford-Cooperstown Nov. 17. White-winged Scoter: one Whitney Point Nov. 3; six Delhi Nov. 16. Black Scoter: 20 Delhi Oct. 16 (MC). Ruddy Duck: 17 Whitney Point Nov. 3 (A, MD). Hooded Merganser: 13 at Chenango Valley State Park Nov. 3, four remaining the following day; no others. Com. Merganser: ten Delhi Sept. 16, first date; 54 Whitney Point Nov. 10, max. Red-breasted Merganser: four Whitney Point Nov. 3; also reported from Owego.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: as many as 15 at Delhi through Sept. and to Oct. 11, the last date. Goshawk: one Cortland Nov. 4 (PK), the only one. Sharp-shinned Hawk: at Oneonta nine counted passing through in a little more than an hour Oct. 5, six in two-and-a-quarter hours Sept. 17 (KW); six counted in Oneonta-Portlandville area Sept. 18; eight other reports, the last Nov. 21. Cooper's Hawk: six reports in Sept.; two reports from Owego in Nov. Red-tailed Hawk: at Oneonta Oct. 6 one seen making a pass with outstretched talons at a hang glider (GeC); eleven counted flying over Oneonta within three hours Oct. 5 max, but reported in small numbers all period and from all parts of the Region; a near albino at Norwich Nov. 4. Red-shouldered Hawk: only two reports, Sept. 16 Owego and Sept. 22 Binghamton. Broad-winged Hawk: twelve counted passing over Oneonta in three hours Sept. 17; nine other reports of ones and twos, the latest Oct. 5. Rough-legged Hawk: Oct. 14 Marathon (CW), an early date even for severe fall weather. Marsh Hawk: six scattered reports, the latest Oct. 28 Marathon. Osprey: 26 scattered reports, with, perhaps, some duplication, the latest Oct. 21 Chenango Forks; four in three hours over Oneonta Oct. 5 the best count. Peregrine Falcon: one about ten to twelve miles south of Cortland Sept. 28 (DC, BL, FS) in a large maple tree about 50 feet from the road—observed for ten minutes—detailed field marks indicated the bird to be "an immature from the *tundrius* race"—no band, streamers or markers of any kind; one Franklin Oct. 4 (KS), no details. Merlin: one Oct. 21 Delhi (MC). Bobwhite: one Sept. report from Owego. Turkey: fourteen at Andes Sept. 23; 18 Oct. 20 Milford feeding in cornfield with geese; nine Nov. 22 at Smithville Flats. Am. Coot: one Portlandville-Milford Oct. 27; 11 Whitney Point Nov. 3; no others. Killdeer: at Delhi to Nov. 18. Am. Golden Plover: two Sherburne Sept. 10 (JL), good description. Com. Snipe: one Portlandville-Oneonta Sept. 4; one Sherburne Nov. 10; no others. Spotted Sandpiper: none after Aug. 17. Solitary Sandpiper: five Portlandville-Milford-Oneonta Sept. 4, the last. Greater Yellowlegs: four reports all Fall, the last Nov. 6 Owego. Lesser Yellowlegs: Nov. 3 and 4 Chenango Valley State Park (EH). Least Sandpiper: one Sherburne Sept. 10. Semipalmated Sandpiper: Nov. 10 Owego. Ring-billed Gull: 200 Homer Nov. 1, best count; 25 Milford-Cooperstown Nov. 17; a flock of 50 to 100 present on open fields up and down Owego Creek Valley most of Nov. Com. Tern: one Portlandville Sept. 13, the first all year.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Sept. 15 Meredith, in Delaware Co., the only Fall report. Black-billed Cuckoo: none. Screech Owl: over a dozen scattered reports. Barred Owl: Sept. 1 s. of Binghamton. Com. Nighthawk: Sept. 3 at Emmons, near Oneonta, the last date. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one Delhi Oct. 7, the only one after Sept. 21. Com. Flicker: Nov. 21 Owego, last date. Pileated Woodpecker: 15 reports from all parts of the Region. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one Owego Sept. 28 (W. LD), stayed on through Oct.; Cortland Nov. 6 (CN); a male Nov. 13 Smithville Flats (J, KH), stayed until the end of the month. Red-headed Woodpecker: still at Owego into Oct. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: nine scattered reports of one to three birds, the last Oct. 14 Vestal.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** Eastern Kingbird: two Sept. 18 Portlandville-Oneonta, last date. Great Crested Flycatcher: Sept. 19 Cortland. Eastern Phoebe: last date Oct. 25 Delhi. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Portlandville-Oneonta Sept. 4; one banded Sept. 4 and another Sept. 8. Vestal; that's all. Eastern Wood Pewee: one Delhi Oct. 1, late. Tree Swallow: Oct. 8 Owego; one Delhi Oct. 12. Barn Swallow: two Delhi Sept. 7. Tufted Titmouse: increasingly frequent reports at feeders in Oct. and Nov. Red-breasted Nuthatch: Nov. 4 Chenango Valley State Park, the only report after Sept. 22. House Wren: Oct. 4, one at Delhi and one banded at Binghamton, last date. Winter Wren: five reports from Sept. 22 Binghamton to Nov. 3 Choconut Center. Carolina Wren: still at Port Dickinson through Oct. 29. Mockingbird: the usual scattered infrequent reports. Gray Catbird: Oct. 13 Vestal Center. Brown Thrasher: Oct. 24 Endwell. Am. Robin: 15 Vestal Nov. 13 the last flock; scattered individuals still around at the end of the period. Wood Thrush: Oct. 24 Port Dickinson, the only report after Oct. 11. Hermit Thrush: only four scattered reports all Fall, the last Nov. 17 Milford-Cooperstown. Swainson's Thrush: 31 reports of at least 44 individuals from all

parts of the Region, 29 of which were banded at Binghamton and Vestal—first date Sept. 3 Vestal—last date Oct. 27 Port Dickinson. Veery: one banded Binghamton Oct. 7, the only report after Sept. 22. Eastern Bluebird: a dozen scattered reports—ten or more at Kirkwood Oct. 14, max—two Portlandville-Milford Oct. 27, the last. Golden-crowned Kinglet: two Portlandville-Milford Sept. 4, early; 14 reports to Nov. 15, a good showing for the less common kinglet. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: quite common, as usual, from Sept. 21 through Oct.; 28 banded at Binghamton and Vestal. Water Pipit: Oct. 7 Broome Co. Airport; 25 Milford Oct. 20; one Delhi Oct. 21. Cedar Waxwing: 100 Sept. 16 Emmons, the largest flock but numerous reports of smaller flocks through Oct. plus a few in Nov. No. Shrike: one Oct. report from Owego without specific date; Nov. 9 Chenango, in Cortland Co.; one Milford-Cooperstown Nov. 17.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** White-eyed Vireo: Oct. 18 Owego (RB), no details. Solitary Vireo: one banded Oct. 5 Binghamton, last date. Red-eyed Vireo: one Oct. 4 the last of 22 banded at Binghamton, and last date for species. Philadelphia Vireo: five banded at Binghamton, the last Oct. 14 (HM), the only reports. Warbling Vireo: singing Sept. 23 Upper Lisle, n. of Whitney Point, the last date. Black-and-white Warbler: one Delhi Oct. 6, the only one after Sept. 22. Tennessee Warbler: one Binghamton Oct. 8 banded, last date; five Portlandville-Milford Sept. 4, max. Nashville Warbler: two banded Binghamton Oct. 7, the last of 13 Sept.-Oct. reports. No. Parula: three banded Vestal Oct. 2 (GC), the only Fall report. Yellow Warbler: Sept. 17 Delhi, last date. Magnolia Warbler: 25 banded Binghamton in Sept. and to Oct. 4; last date Oct. 9 Owego. Cape May Warbler: 19 reports, only four after Sept. 16 and a very late one Oct. 27 Delhi (MC) the only one after Oct. 1; seven Norwich Sept. 5, max. Black-throated Blue Warbler: three Portlandville-Milford Sept. 4 and one banded each of Sept. 18 and 19 Binghamton the only reports. Yellow-rumped Warbler: reported almost constantly through Sept. and Oct.; one Binghamton Nov. 12, the last date; 75 Emmons Sept. 30, the best count. Black-throated Green Warbler: one banded Oct. 5 Binghamton, last date; common through Sept., best counts seven Delhi Sept. 7 and six Portlandville-Oneonta Sept. 18. Blackburnian Warbler: one Portlandville-Milford Sept. 4 and one Delhi Oct. 6, the only ones. Chestnut-sided Warbler: one Portlandville-Oneonta Sept. 18, last date. Bay-breasted Warbler: five banded at Binghamton and five banded at Vestal in Sept.; last date Sept. 30 Upper Lisle; best single day count five Portlandville-Milford Sept. 4. Blackpoll Warbler: one banded Binghamton Sept. 13, first Fall date, and one banded Binghamton Oct. 8, last Fall date; a total of 16 banded at two stations in Binghamton and Vestal and only five other reports. Prairie Warbler: one Delhi Oct. 1 (MC), rarely reported here in Fall. Palm Warbler: one Delhi Sept. 7 to Oct. 6 Choconut Center; also at Owego Sept. 21 and five at Emmons Sept. 30. Ovenbird: 17 banded at Binghamton and Vestal through Oct. 8, the last date; only two other reports. No. Waterthrush: one banded Binghamton Sept. 5; no others. Connecticut Warbler: one banded Sept. 5 Binghamton (HM) and one banded Sept. 21 Vestal (GC); no others. Mourning Warbler: one Portlandville-Milford Sept. 4, the only report. Com. Yellowthroat: last date Oct. 14 Whitney Point; common as usual. Yellow-breasted Chat: Sept. 22 Binghamton. Wilson's Warbler: eight reports of single birds, five of them banded at Binghamton as was the last one Oct. 4. Canada Warbler: six banded at Binghamton, the last Sept. 21; no others. Am. Redstart: one banded Binghamton Oct. 8, last date.

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS:** Bobolink: Sept. 3 Upper Lisle (MS). Eastern Meadowlark: only about a dozen reports, max five Truxton, in Cortland Co., Oct. 7; have clearly declined during the decade. Yellow-headed Blackbird: Oct. 23 in the Owego area (RB), no details. Red-winged Blackbird: large flocks Nov. 4 Truxton and Chenango Valley State Park and scarce after that. No. Oriole: two Portlandville-Milford Sept. 4 and one Norwich Sept. 16, no others. Rusty Blackbird: five Truxton Oct. 27; three Vestal Center Oct. 31; that's all. Com. Grackle: a huge flock, mixed with Red-winged Blackbirds, Nov. 4 Chenango Valley State Park; regular reports, but only small numbers to Nov. 20. Scarlet Tanager: two Emmons Oct. 19, the only ones after Oct. 1. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: numerous reports to Sept. 23; best count ten Norwich Sept. 8; one Norwich Oct. 1, the last. Indigo Bunting:



three Portlandville-Oneonta Sept. 18, the only report. Evening Grosbeak: 25 Norwich Oct. 27, the first written record; scattered reports to Nov. 12 and regular reports from then on in some locations but very few in others, numbers way down compared to recent years. Purple Finch: increased numbers from about mid-Oct. to mid-Nov. with only smaller numbers present before and after suggest a movement through the Region. House Finch: constant reports from Owego and Triple Cities area, although seasonal movements over short distances are evident; at Cortland 15 to 20 at feeder every day, some feeding young, to Sept. 19 at least and "they outnumber house sparrows." Pine Siskin: an undated Oct. report from Owego, but that's all. Am. Goldfinch: still common, but seem to have decreased steadily for the last few years. Rufous-sided Towhee: one Norwich Nov. 14 and Nov. 19 Vestal the only reports after mid-Oct. Savannah Sparrow: 15 Norwich Sept. 14, max; five Delhi Oct. 7, the last report, but surely not the last date. Dark-eyed Junco: present all period, but numbers increasing about Oct. 14 and then decreasing about Nov. 25; 48 Portlandville-Milford Oct. 27 the best count, but considerably more common than even that would suggest. Tree Sparrow: Oct. 17 Port Dickinson; next date Nov. 27; 14 Portlandville-Milford Nov. 10, max; numbers noticeably down. Chipping Sparrow: 60 Norwich Oct. 16, best count; Nov. 19 Vestal (B, TW), the only report after Nov. 3. Field Sparrow: 20 Norwich Oct. 16. White-crowned Sparrow: Sept. 27 Delhi and one Endicott Nov. 5, first and last Fall records; 40 Norwich Oct. 16 and 40 Milford Oct. 20, best counts. White-throated Sparrow: daily records from Sept. 22 to Nov. 7, and from all parts of the Region with peak numbers Oct. 14 to 18; appreciable numbers still present at the end of the period. Fox Sparrow: Oct. 6 Choconut Center and Nov. 17 Vestal, the first and last of only four Fall records. Lincoln's Sparrow: one Binghamton Sept. 10 and one Vestal Sept. 30, both banded; two Norwich Oct. 16. Song Sparrow: 50 Norwich Oct. 16, max. Snow Bunting: a single bird at Delhi Nov. 15, 16 and 17, the only report.

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## REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

GENE HUGGINS

The beginning of the fall season was dominated by the effects of Hurricanes David and Frederic upon certain birds along the Lake Ontario littoral. An unprecedented number of Common Terns was observed over the east end of Lake Ontario on Sept. 15, the day after Hurricane Frederic's passage. To the amazement of veteran observers, an approximate total of 10,800 terns filled the skies. The following day only 550 Common Terns could be accounted for; where they came from and where they went in two days left a question mark in the minds of most who saw the spectacle. On that same day, an immature Sabine's Gull flew by Derby Hill for the Region's second record. Later on another immature bird made its appearance for the Region's third record.

Another bird that drew attention was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher that spent 46 days in Oswego County for the Region's first confirmed record.

Positives for the fall include: good numbers of Red-throated Loons; fair Brant flight; above average numbers of Gadwalls, Pintails, and American Wigeons; good tallies of Oldsquaws, Black Scoters, Ruddy Ducks, Hooded and Red-breasted Mergansers; superb jaeger numbers; irruption of Blue Jays; an invasion

of Tufted Titmice; large numbers of American Robins and Cedar Waxwings; good, but not impressive numbers of warblers; fair numbers of migrant sparrows, particularly Field, White-throated and Song Sparrows; better than average numbers of Snow Buntings.

Fall negatives include: extremely poor numbers of Pied-billed Grebes; low numbers of all herons, particularly American Bitterns; low numbers of Black Ducks, both teal and *aythya* species; poor numbers of migrant buteos, Marsh Hawks and Ospreys; Ring-necked Pheasants now a vanishing species; very poor Sept.-Oct. shorebird flight particularly poor in snipe; extremely low counts on all migrant thrushes, the worst in 20 years according to Jean Propst; virtually no winter finch flight; low numbers of all grassland sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos; extremely low numbers of Fox and Tree Sparrows.

Contributors: Dorothy W. Ackley (DWA); Kenneth Blackshaw; Kate & Steve Coyle (KC); Bruno & Dee DeSimone; Gene Huggins (GH); Jay Lehman; Bob Long; Belle & Sheila Peebles; Marge S. Rusk (MSR); Fritz Scheider (FGS); Gerald Smith (GS); Mackenzie Stewart (MacS); Mandy Stooks (MS); Elba Van Dresar; Dorothy W. Crumb (DWC); Bob Evans.

Abbreviations: Derby Hill—DH; Lake Ontario littoral—LOL; Oneida Hawk Lookout—OHL; Onondaga Lake—Onon. L.; Selkirk Shores State Park—SSSP; Sandy Pond—SPd.

Observations for which no observer is listed should be credited to F. G. Scheider. Also thanks to F. G. Scheider for help in compiling these notes.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: max 80 LOL Nov. 8; Red-throated Loon: max 15 LOL Nov. 3; Red-necked Grebe: max two LOL Nov. 4-9 and one at Oneida L. Nov. 18 (MSR & KC); Horned Grebe: max 95 LOL Nov. 3; Pied-billed Grebe: max 15 LOL Oct. 18; Double-crested Cormorant: max 72 SPd & DH Oct. 6; Great Blue Heron: max 11 Sylvan B Oct. 3 (KC); Green Heron: max four Stone Rd. and DH Nov. 3, a total of 20 for the season; CATTLE EGRET: two birds at Lacona Oct. 28 (mob); Am. Bittern: only one for the fall along the LOL Oct. 1; Whistling Swan: max ten Oneida L. near Constantia and Billington Bay near Bridgeport Nov. 19 (KC); Canada Goose: max 3,000 s. Madison Co. Nov. 25; Brant: max 1,245 DH Oct. 8, last day Nov. 29; Snow Goose: max 48 Oct. 30 (DWC); Black Duck: max 225 DH & SPd. Oct. 25; Gadwall: max 100 FH to DH Nov. 1, 4; Pintail: max 1,208 DH Oct. 7; Blue-winged Teal: max 100 LOL Sept. 20 with one injured bird on Nov. 18 at SPd; Am. Wigeon: max 715 Oct. 7 (GS); No. Shoveler: max five Onon. L. Sept. 4 (KC); Wood Duck: max 286 Scott Sw. Sept. 22; Redhead: max 68 Beaver L. Nov. 23 (GH); Ring-necked Duck: max 70 FH & LSB Nov. 1; Canvasback: max 26 LOL Nov. 10; Greater Scaup: max 950 DH Oct. 7 (GS); Com. Goldeneye: max 750 DH Nov. 10; Bufflehead: max 490 LOL Nov. 10; Oldsquaw: max 1,000 LOL Oct. 25 (DWC); King Eider: one at LSB on Nov. 17; White-winged Scoter: max 410 DH & SPd. Oct. 25; Surf Scoter: max 56 DH Oct. 7; Com. Scoter: max 1,551 DH Nov. 12 (MSR); Ruddy Duck: max 176 Onon. L. Nov. 12 (KC), with an early arrival Chitning Pd. s. Oneida Co. Oct. 6 (GH); Hooded Merganser: max 207 Nov. 18; Com. Merganser: max 88 SPd. and east end of Oneida L. Nov. 18 (MSR); Red-breasted Merganser: max 5,200 DH & SPd. Nov. 3.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: max four LOL & Oneida "Hawk-out" Sept. 18 (BP & DWC), last day Oct. 25; Goshawk: a total of three for the Fall; Sharp-shinned Hawk: a low max of 38 occurring on one of the few peak flight days of the Fall at OHL Sept. 8 (mob); Cooper's Hawk: a total of 15 reported for the Region; Red-shouldered Hawk: max three east end of Oneida L. Sept. 30 (MSR), a total of five for the period; Broad-winged Hawk: max 249 OHL Sept. 8 (mob), last day Sept. 16; Rough-legged Hawk: max two DH Nov. 3, arrv. Oct. 20; BALD EAGLE: one imm. unmarked bird DH Nov. 8; Marsh Hawk: max five LOL Nov. 11, a total of 21 for the period; Osprey: max three LOL Oct. 6, last day



Nov. 8; Merlin: one bird at SPd. Sept. 15 (B. Long) and one bird near Holland Patent Oct. 9 (E. Van Dresar); **PEREGRINE FALCON**: two imm. Oct. 1, two adults and two imm. Oct. 6, one adult and one imm. Oct. 7, in the Region; Ruffed Grouse: max nine reported from diff. localities; Ring-necked Pheasant: max seven Shackleton Pt. Oneida L. Nov. 18 (MacS), a total 28 reported for the period; Com. Gallinule: max ten SPd. Oct. 1, last day Oct. 17; Am. Coot: max 365 FH Nov. 4 (MSR); Semipalmated Plover: max 25 Sept. 1, last day Oct. 6; Killdeer: max 259 Sylvan B. & Verona B. Oct. 5; Am. Golden Plover: max 50 Durhamville Oct. 1 (DWC), last day Oct. 7; Black-bellied Plover: max three SPd. Sept. 30-Oct. 25, (mob), last day Nov. 11; Ruddy Turnstone: max seven SPd. Sept. 3, last day Nov. 15; Com. Snipe: max eight SPd. & SSSP. Nov. 8, last day Nov. 11; Spotted Sandpiper: one on a very late date of Oct. 21 at SPd. WILLET: one at DH Sept. 15 (FGS & MSR); Solitary Sandpiper: max two Onon. L. Sept. 3; Greater Yellowlegs: max six e. end of Oneida L. Oct. 31 (DWA); Lesser Yellowlegs: max 34 e. end Oneida L. Oct. 3, (KC), last day Oct. 5; Red Knot: max three Onon. L. Sept. 1 (KC), last day Sept. 16; Pectoral Sandpiper: max 32 Onon. L. Sept. 30 (KC), last day Oct. 25; White-rumped Sandpiper: max three SPd. Nov. 3 (MSR); Baird's Sandpiper: max six Onon. L. & Amboy Pool Sept. 2, last day Sept. 30; Least Sandpiper: max 25 Sept. 1 with a record late date of one at Fair Haven Nov. 24 (MSR); Dunlin: max 315 SPd. Oct. 7, last day Nov. 24; **HUDSONIAN GODWIT**: two at SPd. on Oct. 6; Short-billed Dowitcher: max 11 Onon. L. Sept. 2, last day Sept. 26; Stilt Sandpiper: max five Sept. 4 (KC); Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 111 Sept. 1, last day Sept. 3; Western Sandpiper: one at Sylvan B. Sept. 22 (J. Lehman), and one at SPd. Oct. 1; Sanderling: max 62 SPd. Sept. 16, last day Nov. 17; **PURPLE SANDPIPER**: one at Fair Haven Nov. 14 and one between Oswego and DH Nov. 17 (mob); Wilson's Phalarope: one imm. Onon. L. & Amboy Pool Sept. 3, 4; No. Phalarope: one Onon. L. Sept. 1, 2, last day Sept. 22; Pomarine Jaeger: one at DH Oct. 7 and one imm. dark phase bird DH Nov. 28 (GS); Parasitic Jaeger: max 202 DH Oct. 7, last day Oct. 26; Glaucous Gull and Iceland Gull: max one/day LOL arrv. Oct. 25; Great Black-backed Gull: max 85 LOL Nov. 17; Bonaparte's Gull: max 2,080 SPd. & SSSP Sept. 15; **BLACK-HEADED GULL**: one adult LOL Oct. 25 (DWC); **LITTLE GULL**: one adult at SPd. Sept. 3-Oct. 25, one imm. at e. end Oneida L. Sept. 30 (MSR & K. Blackshaw); **SABINE'S GULL**: two imm. birds, both observed from DH on Sept. 15, Oct. 7 for the second and third record in the Region (mob); **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**: one imm. DH Oct. 7, and one adult and three imm. SPd. & DH Oct. 25; **FORSTER'S TERN**: one at SPd. Sept. 18, one along LOL Oct. 25 (DWC) and four at e. end L. Ont. Oct. 7 (GS); Com. Tern: a record 10,800 e. end L. Ont. Sept. 15 to 550 the following day; Caspian Tern: max 37 LOL & Onon. L. Sept. 3; Black Tern: max 17 Sept. 15.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: Mourning Dove: max 250 N. Pompey Twp. Oct. 3 (DWC); Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one SPd. Sept. 15 (B. Long); Black-billed Cuckoo: one Chittenango Gorge Sept. 16 (MacS); Snowy Owl: one near Bridgeport on Oneida L. Nov. 19 (KC); Chimney Swift: max ten LOL Sept. 17; Red-bellied Woodpecker: one to two/day extending as far east as Holland Patent; Red-headed Woodpecker: declining with a total 11 reported for the period; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max five/day, last day Oct. 13.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS**: Eastern Kingbird: one to three/day with Sept. 20 the last date; **SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER**: one molting adult, Town of Sandy Creek north of Pt. Ontario Sept. 18-Nov. 3, first confirmed Regional record (mob); Eastern Phoebe: max nine SPd. Oct. 14 (MSR); Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max four SSSP Sept. 3, last day Sept. 15; Eastern Wood Pewee: max 24 SPd & SSSP Sept. 3; Horned Lark: scarce max 150 N. Pompey Twp. Oct. 9 (DWC); Bank Swallow: max 2,000 SPd. Sept. 1, departing on Sept. 16; Barn Swallow: max 1,100 SPd. Sept. 1, departing on Oct. 1; Blue Jay: ten to 75/day occurring to the third week of Oct. and dropping off sharply; Black-capped Chickadee: max 43 Tassel Hill St. forest s. Oneida Co. Sept. 8 (GH); Tufted Titmouse: major irruption occurings along the L. Ont. plain and as far northeast as Holland Patent one to three/day; Red-breasted Nuthatch: scarce one to two/day; Winter Wren: max six SPd. Oct. 1, scarce; Carolina Wren: one in DeWitt Nov. 16 (Charles Riley), one in N. Pompey Twp. Oct.

14 (DWC), and one at Fair Haven Nov. 6 (MSR); Mockingbird: expanding with two in Rome Nov. 12 (E. Van Dresar); Gray Catbird: max 18 Chittenango Gorge Sept. 16 (MacS). Am. Robin: abundant with 500+ N. Pompey Twp. (DWC); Swainson's Thrush: max four N. Pompey Twp. Oct. 2 (DWC); Gray-cheeked Thrush: max two N. Pompey Twp. Oct. 2 (DWC); Hermit Thrush: max nine SPd. Oct. 14 (MSR); Eastern Bluebird: max 12 Holland Patent area Oct. 9 (E. Van Dresar); Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 55 No. Pompey Twp. Oct. 14; and Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 48 N. Pompey Twp. Oct. 14 (DWC), scarce in Nov. with one to two/day; Water Pipit: max 300 Durhamville Oct. 1 (DWC) with three until Nov. 11; Cedar Waxwing: ten to 50/day; No. Shrike: very, very scarce—only two for the Fall, one at Shackleton Pt. and one at Lacona.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Yellow-throated Vireo: one to three/day; Solitary Vireo: four/day near Sylvan B. with a late departure date of Oct. 24; Red-eyed Vireo: max 45 SPd. & SSSP Sept. 1; Philadelphia Vireo: max six N. Pompey Twp. Oct. 2 (DWC). Warbler migration: Species with low numbers/day: Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, No. Parula, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Palm Warbler, Mourning Warbler, No. Waterthrush. Species with good numbers/day: Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Com. Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler. Species with late dates: No. Parula, Oct. 30; Magnolia Warbler, Oct. 20; Black-throated Green Warbler, Nov. 4; Pine Warbler, Nov. 3; Ovenbird, Oct. 20; Com. Yellowthroat, Oct. 31. Blue-winged Warbler: one at LOL Oct. 16, a late date; Orange-crowned Warbler: max five N. Pompey Twp. Oct. 2 (DWC).

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS:** Eastern Meadowlark: generally scarce with a max 25/day; No. Oriole: one at SPd. Sept. 22; Rusty Blackbird: max 30 mid-Sept. scarce afterwards; Rose-breasted Grosbeak: one in Clay Marsh area Oct. 18, a late date; Indigo Bunting: one in N. Pompey Twp. Oct. 14, a late date (DWC); Evening Grosbeak: two arrived Oct. 13 N. Pompey Twp. (DWC); No Pine Grosbeaks, Com. Redpolls or crossbills; the only Pine Siskins in the Region from the Ben Burtt Feeder Survey were four in Utica and two in Syracuse. Am. Goldfinch: concentrated around thistle feeders with a max 285 DH Nov. 11; **DICK-CHISSEL:** one in with a flock of House Sparrows, Elbridge, first week of Oct (Arlene Cronk). Savannah Sparrow: max 45 N. Pompey Twp. Oct. 3 (DWC); Vesper Sparrow: max ten Holland Patent Oct. 14 (E. Van Dresar); Dark-eyed Junco: very low with a max 90/day; Tree Sparrow: incredibly scarce with a max eight/day; Field Sparrow: max 34 Dempster Beach & DH Oct. 13; White-throated Sparrow: max 525 No. Pompey Twp. Oct. 10 (DWC); Fox Sparrow: very scarce, one to two/day; Snow Bunting: two arrv. on Oct. 20 with flocks of 15 to 95/day later on.

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## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LEE CHAMBERLAINE

The Fall of 1979 was a wet one with very little snow and high winds from tropical storms David and Frederic. Maximum temperature for the period was a high of 84° F. (29° C.) on October 22nd, and a low of 12° F. (-11° C.) on November 16.

On September 14th, 2.5 inches of rain fell in Watertown and caused flooding of many small streams. Heavy rains occurred through much of October and No-

vember making up for the dry summer months. The first snowfall, which was minimal, occurred on October 25 with the maximum snow for the period about 8 inches on November 30.

Water areas remained open and another heavy wild fruit crop helped the birding. Lake Ontario water levels, even with all the rain, dropped thru the period and provided excellent shorebirding.

Positive trends for the period were: one of the best waterbird and waterfowl observation Falls in many years—the lack of very cold weather helped provide a highly varied waterfowl count; improvements in Bald Eagle and Marsh Hawk counts; a very high Ruffed Grouse population; excellent shorebirding, particularly at El Dorado and along the St. Lawrence River; a building Mourning Dove population which was decimated by Winter of 1977 and improved bluebird numbers.

Due to the relatively mild even if wet Fall, many migrants stayed later than normal and winter visitors were limited.

Negatives for the period were: low numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawk and Cooper's Hawk; still low numbers of Am. Kestrel although more than the last report; Gray Partridge still in low numbers; and Eastern Phoebe still very low. Winter finches were a disappointment, as were the winter raptors.

Rarities for the period included Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, two Merlins, two Parasitic Jaegers, a Little Gull, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and an Orange-crowned Warbler.

Contributors: Stewart Brown; Richard Brouse; Stuart Cameron; Lee Chamberlaine; Kenneth Crowell; Joe Lamendola; Nick Leone; Bob Long; Marge Rusk; Joe VanRiet; Bob and June Walker.

**LOONS-DUCKS:** Com. Loon: max 24 St. Lawrence River (SLR henceforth) Big Isl. Oct. 16; 20 SLR Oak Point Oct. 16. **RED-THROATED LOON:** one near Chippewa Bay SLR Oct. 16; one Black Pond—El Dorado Nov. 24 (R. Brouse). **RED-NECKED GREBE:** one Coles Creek SLR between Nov. 6-20; three off Kring Point SLR Nov. 9; one Jacques Cartier State Park SLR Nov. 11. Horned Grebe: two Wescotts Beach State Park Nov. 3; three Henderson Harbor Nov. 12; three Perch Lake Nov. 14. Pied-billed Grebe: one Pollys Bay SLR Nov. 13; one Hawkins Point SLR Nov. 8, scarce. Double-crested Cormorant: six El Dorado Sept. 2, six same Sept. 9; 14 same Sept. 30; three Henderson Oct. 27; two same Oct. 28; last near Morristown SLR Nov. 9, late. Great Blue Heron: thru period in decreasing frequency—one to two/day. Green Heron: last El Dorado Oct. 14. Black-crowned Night Heron: two Hawkins Pt. Oct. 18. Am. Bittern: last El Dorado Sept. 30. **MUTE SWAN:** one El Dorado Sept. 2 thru Nov. 24 (mob). **WHISTLING SWAN:** five Perch Lake Proper—Oct. 30 (S. Brown & D. Faulkham). Canada Goose: thru period with migration beginning in mid-Sept. Brant: two SLR Massena vicinity Oct. 22; nine Coles Creek SLR Oct. 29; 17 Oak Point SLR Oct. 25; 14 El Dorado Nov. 3; 700+ Featherbed Shoals SLR Nov. 5; three Brandy Brook SLR Nov. 6; three Edgewater Creek SLR Nov. 8; one El Dorado Nov. 24. Snow Goose: five (blue phase) Wilson Hill Oct. 23. Mallard: 262 Wiley-Dondero Canal Oct. 5; as common as ever. Black Duck: 58 Wiley-Dondero Canal Sept. 8; 210 same Sept. 24; 266 same Oct. 23; 104 same Nov. 20. Gadwall: six El Dorado Sept. 2; 60 Wiley-Dondero Canal Sept. 24; 100 Wilson Hill Oct. 6; 40 Wilson Hill Oct. 13; 65 Wiley-Dondero Canal Oct. 23; 115 same Oct. 30; four Wilson Hill Nov. 24. Pintail: four El Dorado Sept. 29; 27 Wilson Hill Oct. 22; 12 Wilson Hill Nov. 3. Green-winged Teal: scarce on SLR one to four per day. Blue-winged Teal: 225 El Dorado Sept. 3; 280 American Island SLR Sept. 9; 100 El Dorado Sept.



15; 50 El Dorado Sept. 29. Am. Wigeon: 50 El Dorado Sept. 30; 900 Wilson Hill Oct. 13; 740 same Oct. 14; 650 same Oct. 22; 700 same Nov. 3; 790 Nov. 13. No. Shoveler: 41 Wiley-Dondero Canal Oct. 5; four same Oct. 17; 41 same Nov. 13. Wood Duck: normal numbers. Redhead: 520 Wilson Hill Oct. 13; 160 same Oct. 14; 850 Wiley-Dondero Canal Oct. 30; 400 SLR Wellesley Island Nov. 5; 500+ same Nov. 8; 800 Wiley-Dondero Canal Nov. 8; 850 same Nov. 10; 800 same Nov. 20, 670 Robt. Moses State Park Nov. 25; 700 same Nov. 31; Ring-necked Duck: 105 Wilson Hill Oct. 6; 300 same Oct. 13; 775 Wiley-Dondero Oct. 23; 745 Wilson Hill Nov. 3; 700 same Nov. 10; 23 Wilson Hill Nov. 24. Canvasback: 500-600 Wellesley Island Nov. 5; 7000 Burnham Pt. SLR Nov. 5; 500 Wellesley Island Nov. 8; 1500 same Nov. 11 & 12; 600 Tibbets Point Nov. 12. Greater Scaup: 2000+ Wescotts Beach State Park Nov. 3; 15,000 same Nov. 8; 3000+ Black River Bay Nov. 8; 1300 Pillar Point Nov. 8; 5000+ Featherbed Shoal SLR Nov. 8; 4000+ Wilsons Bay Nov. 8; 2000 Fox Island Nov. 8; 7500 near Cape Vincent Nov. 12. Lesser Scaup: 26 Wilson Hill Sept. 8, early; 30-70 per day Wilson Hill mid-Oct.-mid-Nov.; one Perch River Oct. 7. Com. Goldeneye: 200 El Dorado Nov. 3; 180 Hawkins Pt. SLR Nov. 17; 125 Robt. Moses Dam Nov. 20. Bufflehead: three Wilson Hill Oct. 23 & Nov. 3; 12 El Dorado Nov. 3. Oldsquaw: 10-40 per day SLR late Oct.-Nov.; in Henderson area Nov. 11. White-winged Scoter: two El Dorado Sept. 29; six same Oct. 21; five same Nov. 3. Surf Scoter: three Hawkins Pt. SLR Oct. 21 (J. VanRiet); 24 El Dorado Nov. 3 (N. Leone); two Wescotts Beach State Park Nov. 3 (N. Leone); one to two per day SLR mid-Oct.-mid-Nov. Black Scoter: one Perch River Oct. 8; 27 El Dorado Oct. 21; 40 same Nov. 3; two Wescotts Beach State Park Nov. 3; 2000 in groups of 50-800 along SLR between Morristown and Wellesley Island Nov. 11—most common scoter on the River; 100 El Dorado Nov. 24 (R. Brouse). Ruddy Duck: one American Isl. SLR Oct. 16; two Wilson Hill Oct. 23; one same Oct. 27; one Perch River Oct. 28; four Wilson Hill Nov. 3; seven same Nov. 6; three same Nov. 24. Hooded Merganser: 110 Wilson Hill Oct. 2; 80 same Oct. 19; 149 same Nov. 3; 252 same Nov. 6; 190 same Nov. 10; 180 same Nov. 13. Com. Merganser: ten Hawkins Pt. Oct. 13; 800 same Oct. 31; 1000 same Nov. 5; 4000 same Nov. 30, 3500 to 5000 per day between Robinson Bay and Robt. Moses Dam Nov. 10-Nov. 20. Red-breasted Merganser: two El Dorado Sept. 9; two Hawkins Pt. SLR Oct. 14; two Perch Lake Nov. 14.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: last Rodman Oct. 14; reports from all parts of Region. Goshawk: one imm. Robt. Moses Park Nov. 13. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one Robt. Moses Park Oct. 22; only report of the period. Cooper's Hawk: one imm. near Oak Pt. SLR Oct. 8; one sub-adult Hawkins Pt. SLR Oct. 10. Red-tailed Hawk: four to seven per day on lake plain Oct. & Nov. Rough-legged Hawk: first a light phase Oct. 26; one dark phase Henderson Nov. 5; one Perch Lake Nov. 14; very few down and scattered. **BALD EAGLE:** one adult Perch River Sept. 19 (A. Schiavone); three (two adults, one imm.) Perch Lake Oct. 4 (Harlan Hine); one imm. with wing streamer Perch Lake (H. Hine); two adults Perch Lake Oct. 31 (S. Brown); one adult Perch Lake Nov. 14 (L. Chamberlaine); two adults Perch Lake Nov. 30 (S. Brown); all are Montezuma-hacked birds with streamers. Marsh Hawk: thru period—more than in past few years—26 birds total. Osprey: last on Oct. 10—six birds reported for period. **MERLIN:** one found dead on road near Sulphur Springs Sept. 11 (Walkers); one El Dorado Sept. 11 (MacKenzie & Murray). Am. Kestrel: thru period in fair numbers. Ruffed Grouse: population is way up—road kills common—next year population will probably crash, four straight years of increases. Gray Partridge: 18 near Snell Locks Oct. 17; still in low numbers. Am. Coot: 200+ Wellesley Isl. SLR Nov. 8; 17 Henderson Nov. 11. Semipalmated Plover: 20 El Dorado Sept. 3; 12 same Sept. 23; last four same Sept. 29. Killdeer: last one Perch River Nov. 14. Black-bellied Plover: one El Dorado Sept. 3; one same Sept. 9; one same Sept. 23 and Oct. 14. Ruddy Turnstone: 25 El Dorado Sept. 3; last two same Oct. 21. Am. Woodcock: most flight birds were later than normal. Com. Snipe: last El Dorado Sept. 29. Spotted Sandpiper: one El Dorado Sept. 3; one Wilson Hill Oct. 15—late. Solitary Sandpiper: one El Dorado Sept. 22. Greater Yellowlegs: two El Dorado Sept. 3; three Perch River Sept. 8; departure two Coles Creek SLR Oct. 23. Lesser Yellowlegs: 35 El

Dorado Sept. 3; five Perch River Sept. 8; last one El Dorado Sept. 29. Red Knot: seven El Dorado Sept. 3; one same Sept. 15. Pectoral Sandpiper: three El Dorado Sept. 23; four same Sept. 29. White-rumped Sandpiper: one El Dorado Sept. 3; two near Chippewa Bay SLR Oct. 16; one El Dorado Oct. 21. **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER**: one El Dorado Sept. 22 (Walkers); one Hopsons Bay near Massena Beach SLR Oct. 5. Least Sandpiper: 15 El Dorado Sept. 3; six same Sept. 9; last five same Sept. 15; Dunlin: one El Dorado Sept. 3; 100 same Oct. 21. Short-billed Dowitcher: five El Dorado Sept. 2 & 3; one same Sept. 15. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 260 El Dorado Sept. 3; five same Sept. 9; 75 same Sept. 15; last one same Oct. 29. **WESTERN SANDPIPER**: one El Dorado Sept. 3 (N. Leone). Sanderling: 25 El Dorado Sept. 3; ten same Sept. 10; 25 same Sept. 29; last 13 El Dorado Nov. 3. **NORTHERN PHALAROPE**: one south of Main Long Sault Isl. SLR Oct. 5. **PARASITIC JAEGER**: one dark phase imm. El Dorado Sept. 15 (N. Leone & R. Long); one dark phase imm. Robt. Moses Dam Oct. 30-Nov. 4 (J. VanRiet). Glaucous Gull: one Robt. Moses Dam Nov. 18. Iceland Gull: one first year bird Robt. Moses Dam Nov. 18. Great Black-backed Gull: three El Dorado Sept. 3-Nov. 3; 24 Robt. Moses Oct. 14; 100± same Oct. 24. Herring Gull: 700± Robt. Moses Dam Oct. 24. Ring-billed Gull: 600± Robt. Moses Dam Oct. 24. Bonaparte's Gull: 42 El Dorado Sept. 15; 122 Robt. Moses Dam Oct. 21; 132 same Oct. 22—left by Nov. 30. **LITTLE GULL**: one adult Robt. Moses Dam Sept. 8, Oct. 30 and Nov. 4 (J. VanRiet). Com. Tern: 140 Robt. Moses Dam Sept. 8; 21 El Dorado Sept. 15; last four Chippewa Bay Oct. 16. Caspian Tern: 26 El Dorado Sept. 3; two same Sept. 15; one Coles Creek SLR Sept. 17. Black Tern: three Robt. Moses Dam Sept. 17.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS**: Mourning Dove: on the increase again. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one El Dorado Oct. 21 (N. Leone)—very late. Great Horned Owl: thru period. Snowy Owl: none reported. Short-eared Owl: one near Theresa Oct. 29 (S. Cameron). Chimney Swift: last three Watertown Sept. 5. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Sept. 23. Belted Kingfisher: thru. Com. Flicker: 34 Hawkins Point Sept. 8; one El Dorado Nov. 3. Pileated: one to two per day Chippewa Bay area. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Watertown Oct. 14.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS**: E. Phoebe: one El Dorado Sept. 9; two Rodman Oct. 14. Horned Lark: four Henderson Sept. 30; ten same Oct. 1. Tree Swallow: 3000 Chippewa Bay Sept. 24; departure 20 near Henderson Oct. 17. Barn Swallow: 200± near Henderson Sept. 15. Blue Jay: large flight moving SW along SLR in Sept.—max 500 near Oak Pt. Sept. 18. Com. Crow: heavy movement along Lake Ontario shore Oct. 7-Oct. 15; 470 migrating Wiley-Dondero Canal Nov. 10. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one Sevey's Corners Oct. 5; one Henderson Oct. 13. Brown Creeper: in migration Oct. 8; one at Pierrepont Nov. 3 & 25. **SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN**: two El Dorado Sept. 22 (Walkers). **MOCKINGBIRD**: one Clayton Center Nov. 25 (Walkers). Gray Catbird: one Stony Point Nov. 11—late. Brown Thrasher: one Perch River Sept. 8. Am. Robin: one Henderson Oct. 14; ten Stony Point Oct. 19; 28 Robt. Moses Park Oct. 22; two Henderson Nov. 11. E. Bluebird: one near Theresa, Oct. 29 (S. Cameron); five to seven in Oct. near Perch River (Irving Biggers). **BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER**: two El Dorado Sept. 1 (MacKenzie & Murray). Golden-crowned Kinglet: two Seveys Corners Oct. 5; ten Henderson Oct. 13. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: two Seveys Corners Oct. 5; six Henderson Oct. 10; 20 Henderson Oct. 13. Water Pipit: two Kring Point SLR Sept. 9; five El Dorado Sept. 23; three Hawkins Point Oct. 21. Cedar Waxwing: all over—heavy fruit crop of mountain ash; 20 Henderson Oct. 13; 30 Henderson Nov. 9. No. Shrike: first and only bird reported for period—one Stony Point Nov. 10.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS**: **PHILADELPHIA VIREO**: one Jacques Cartier State Park Sept. 8. Tennessee Warbler: one Haverstock Rd. north of Massena Oct. 5. **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER**: one Wilson Hill Oct. 15. Cape May Warbler: one El Dorado Sept. 9. Yellow-rumped Warbler: 60 Haverstock Rd. north of Massena Sept. 24; one Pierrepont Nov. 29, the most common bird from mid-Sept. thru mid-Oct. to be seen this year—literally everywhere—everyday. Black-throated Green Warbler: one Dry Hill Oct. 7. Pine Warbler: last one Coles Creek SLR Sept. 17. Palm Warbler: three Haverstock Road north of Massena Oct. 6. Com. Yellowthroat: one El Dorado Sept. 9.



WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Rusty Blackbird: 350 Wellesley Island SLR Oct. 23. Com. Grackle: four Henderson Oct. 10. Cardinal: two-four per day Oak Point-Morristown; fairly common this year in Henderson and vicinity. Evening Grosbeak: first in Canton Oct 22; 25 Lakeview Nov. 4; 30 Henderson Nov. 29, smaller flocks at feeders thru. Purple Finch: few and far between; three Robt. Moses Oct. 22; one Robt. Moses Oct. 27. House Finch: no reports for period. Am. Goldfinch: ten Henderson Oct. 12; one Robt. Moses Oct. 27. Rufous-sided Towhee: three Henderson at feeder Oct. 9. Vesper Sparrow: one Robt. Moses Oct. 27; three Iroquois Dam area Oct. 29. Dark-eyed Junco: max 60 Henderson Oct. 13; four Henderson Oct. 20. Tree Sparrow: first Oct. 14; 25 Canton Nov. 5; not any great numbers thru period. Chipping Sparrow: eight Henderson Oct. 4. White-crowned Sparrow: 25 near Snell Lock Sept. 24; first in Henderson Oct. 4; 30 near Snell Lock Oct. 5; five Henderson Oct. 12; six Henderson Oct. 14; last Oct. 30. White-throated Sparrow: max 60 Kring Pt. Park Oct. 16; 20 Henderson Oct. 12; last in Henderson Nov. 11. LINCOLN'S SPARROW: five Donahue Rd. near Snell Lock Sept. 24. Swamp Sparrow: three El Dorado Sept. 29. Song Sparrow: max 225 near Snell Lock Sept. 24; singles thru period. Snow Bunting: arrival Coles Creek SLR Oct. 22; 27 Stony Point Oct. 27; many along Lake Ontario overhead Oct. 31.

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## REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

This was a remarkably warm Fall. The few snows we had starting September 16 soon melted. October 30, Snow Buntings arrived in the Champlain Valley, at Tupper Lake, Paul Smith's and Saranac Inn which made one apprehensive about the weather to the north and the weather to come in the near future but nothing nasty in the way of immediate snow or severe cold materialized. Perhaps the mild weather helps to explain a late heavy flight of Rusty Blackbirds some time after resident Rustys had departed. About 600 in an unmixed flock passed over Paul Smith's November 13 headed due south. There wasn't a grackle or red-wing in the lot. Late November storms normally would be snow, however heavy rain November 26 caused a flood at Elizabethtown that washed out roads and killed five local people. High wind accompanied that storm but there seemed to be no marked impact on bird life. All water except small ponds remained open thru the period.

There were at least four Great Horned Owls near Paul Smith's. Here they are always more scarce than the Barred. One blundered into one of my mink traps with one talon, but was released with the help of a blanket dropped over him or her. This was a slap at the bird's dignity and if looks could kill I wouldn't be here to do the Fall report. This particular bird has been feeding on muskrats along a stream. The stretch involved usually has about fifteen of these rodents but these seem to have been reduced to only one this season. These birds are quite efficient at their occupation and are rather fascinating creatures. It is good to have a few about. Perhaps they even get a few small house cats in places that don't need house cats.

There were more than usual Bald Eagles reported. These are always an excit-

ing find. One person had the good fortune to see three. An even greater find was a Golden Eagle seen by several people on November 11 at Paul Smith's where it was feeding on the remains of a deer killed by poachers. Three observers on a rock ledge saw the bird wheel past at less than 100 feet when it had finished feeding.

Steve Dempsey rediscovered Spruce Grouse for the Region. He left Madawaska after birding there Sept. 10 and spotted two leisurely crossing where the black spruce muskeg habitat closes in on the Brandon Road. He left the car to follow them and saw two more. This is the first reported sighting for the area in a few years. It is really good to know they still exist here although southern St. Lawrence County seems to have a stable population. Among the other finds for the Region are Little Gull and Parasitic Jaeger.

Observers: Geoffrey Carleton, Charlcie Delehanty, Jeanne DeMattos, Bill Frenette, Gerald Geiling, Robert Hager, Elspeth Johnson, John Kopp, Catherine Kreiger, David Kreiger, Joshua Lahey, Ted Mack, Robert McKinney, Norman Mason, Keith Murphy, John Parke, John "Mike" Peterson, William Peterson, Gary Randolph, Sue Reaser, Jerry Rosenband, Carole Slatkin, Pat Tabor, Donald Timmons, Janice Timmons, Cecelia Wojciukiewicz, Dave Young.

**LOONS-DUCKS:** A Common Loon was still at Tupper Lake Nov. 23 and another was at Lower St. Regis Lake on the same date. A late Double-crested Cormorant was at Crown Point Oct. 18. JP banded a Green Heron at Westport Sept. 8. Three Great Blue Herons were still at Onchiota in mid-Nov. Tupper Marsh had an Am. Bittern Sept. 27. There was a big push of Canada Geese Oct. 10 in all sections. Mrs. Delehanty saw over 2,000 in two hours that morning at Tupper. She also saw two Brant feeding on a lawn at Upper Saranac Lake only sixty feet from her Nov. 23. There were a few reports of Snow Geese. GC had 145 in one line passing over Elizabethtown Oct. 16 and a max of 500 plus with one blue morph was at Essex Nov. 23 (JP, WP). Black Duck: max 25 Tupper Nov. 19. A Gadwall was at Westport Sept. 8 (EJ, PT). Pintail: three Essex Sept. 17 (JR, CS). A late Am. Wigeon was at Tupper Nov. 18 (CD). Wood Duck: max 12 Panther Marsh Oct. 7 (CD). Ring-necked Duck: max 37 Tupper Oct. 30. Canvasback: only report was of 13 Tupper Oct. 31. An early Greater Scaup was at Westport Sept. 19 (JR, CS) and five were there Oct. 16. Oldsquaw: one North West Bay Oct. 31 (DY); one Moody Pond at Saranac Lake Nov. 6-12 and 17 (RH). This is a small pond where this species would not be expected. White-winged Scoter: one Westport Oct. 29; two Whallon's Bay Oct. 31 both (JR, CS). A female Black Scoter was at Westport Nov. 6 (GC). A flock of about 100 scoters (sp.) was at Essex Oct. 16 (SR). Red-breasted Merganser: 50 between Essex and Westport Oct. 31 (DY).

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: max 14 Coot Hill Sept. 22 as migrants (JP). One still visiting a garbage dump at Brandon in late Oct. Sharp-shinned Hawk: ten reports. Cooper's Hawk: no reports. Red-tailed Hawk: regular migrant in Champlain Valley; one at Indian Lake Oct. 20. Red-shouldered Hawk: one migrant Whallonsburg Oct. 16. Rough-legged Hawk: one Tupper Lake Oct. 27; four Champlain Valley. Bald Eagle: two adults and an imm. Nahasane Sept. 15 (JK); one imm. Tupper Marsh Oct. 7 (CD); one imm. Moriah Nov. 4 (GC). A Marsh Hawk was at Tupper for a month to Oct. 13 and one stayed at Whallonsburg to Nov. 18. Osprey: seven individuals one of which was at Tupper. Good numbers of Am. Kestrels in Champlain Valley. Am. Coot: two at Tupper Nov. 23 (CD). a Regional rarity especially away from Champlain. Am. Golden Plover: DY stopped the potato harvester Sept. 24 and pointed out a group of 30 on his Gabriels field; 40 Essex Sept. 30 (JR, CS). Three of them stayed to Oct. 20. One Black-bellied Plover was with a few goldens at Essex Sept. 7. A late Am. Woodcock was at Elizabethtown Nov. 11 (JP). A late Spotted Sandpiper was at Westport Oct. 29. Pectoral Sandpiper: one Essex Sept. 15 (GC, JP). Baird's Sandpiper: four, one of which was caught and banded Westport Sept. 7. Sanderling: two late

birds, one at Westport and one at mouth of Bouquet River on Sept. 17 both (JR, CS). **PARASITIC JAEGER:** JR, CS and later GC, JP, WP, PT found an imm dark-phase bird at Essex at the golden plover field. Bird was exhausted and sat on ground eating earthworms. It was once harassed by a kestrel and once by the plover. Bonaparte's Gull: max 750 Westport Nov. 28 (GC). **LITTLE GULL:** one imm, Willsboro Sept. 16, "Considerably smaller than accompanying Bonaparte's; much black on folded wings, rear crown, and vertical bar on side. Sabine's type wing pattern in flight. Tail had a narrow terminal black band." (GC); one adult Port Henry Nov. 30 (GC).

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** A Black-billed Cuckoo was still at Whallonsburg Oct. 8. A Saw-whet Owl was at Essex in Sept. (JPa). Whip-poor-will: one calling Witherbee Sept. 2. Red-headed Woodpecker: an imm. spent the day eating sunflower seeds Oct. 21 at Tupper (CD); and an imm sampled cracked corn the next day at Elizabethtown (EJ, JP). A Northern Three-toed Woodpecker with orange crown-patch was on Giant Mtn. Oct. 6 (DT, JT).

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** In late Nov. a Gray Jay curiously watched two rabbit hunters at Onchiota try to show a beagle puppy which way the bunny went. Two Com. Ravens were headed west at Witherbee Sept. 9 (CW) and two were near Westport Sept. 25 (EJ). Many ravens were reported. A Tufted Titmouse at Chubb River Swamp, a boreal habitat, August 26 was a surprise (WP). A Winter Wren was banded at Essex Sept. 10 (CS). Am. Robins were everywhere at Tupper with the Oct. 10 influx of migrants. A few Hermit Thrushes lingered into early Nov. 150 Water Pipits were at Essex Sept. 30, and 22 were banded. Another group of 200 late birds was at Essex Nov. 1. JP, JR, and CS called in a No. Shrike Oct. 27 on Hurricane Mtn. by imitating a Screech Owl call.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** A Yellow-throated Vireo was carefully observed at forty feet Oct. 9 at Tupper as it ate a large insect. The large spectacles and bright yellow throat were noted (CD). A Solitary Vireo was still at Essex Oct. 15 and a Philadelphia Vireo was banded there Oct. 8 (CS). Tennessee Warbler: one banded Elizabethtown Oct. 5 (JP) and one was at Moriah Nov. 4 (NM). The last Nashville Warbler was one at Tupper Oct. 11, JP banded an after-hatching-year Chestnut-sided Warbler July 10, 1975 near Essex and on Sept. 4, 1979 CS caught it near Essex to establish a new longevity record of five years and three months; pretty neat! A late (Yellow) Palm Warbler was at Elizabethtown Oct. 25 (JP) and four Wilson's Warblers were banded in Sept. near Essex (CS). One more Wilson's was at Elizabethtown Sept. 9 (GC). An Am. Redstart at Essex Nov. 18 (CS) was extremely late.

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS:** 2,000-3,000 migrant red-wings and grackles were at Essex Oct. 14. Pine Grosbeaks were in small flocks at Paul Smith's the first week of Nov. but usually traveling. Eight were at Indian Lake about Nov. 8 (RMc). Rufous-sided Towhee: one Saranac Lake early Oct. (JD); one Gabriels Oct. 18 (DY); one Tupper Lake at feeder Oct. 11-Nov. 30 (CD). CS banded a fantastic 336 Savannah Sparrows near Whallonsburg Sept. 24-Oct. 16. 20 migrant Vesper Sparrows stopped briefly at Paul Smith's in late Sept. The first Tree Sparrow was a Whallonsburg arrival Oct. 19. White-crowned Sparrow arrived Sept. 23 at Elizabethtown and Tupper Lake. Fox Sparrow: 19 individuals of which four were caught and banded. A late Lincoln's Sparrow was at Tupper Oct. 12 (CD).

Paul Smith's, New York 12970

## REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

RICHARD P. GUTHRIE

This has been the most interesting birding season that this Region has enjoyed

in a long time! Much of the excitement was brought on by Hurricane David Sept. 6, and to a lesser extent by Frederic a week later. Four new species were added to the Regional list and numerous other hard-to-find species were found at various times following the storms.

"They went by so fast, I couldn't tell what they were," quoth this observer commenting on what were the harbingers of a rash of Sooty Terns and other exotics driven in by the storms. With the visibility much reduced, and the rain coming in horizontal torrents, and the wind at their tails, all that could be determined was that the birds were dark-backed terns. After the winds settled down and the birds could be observed more leisurely, Parasitic Jaeger, Sooty Tern, Laughing Gull and Royal Tern were added to the Region list.

With the exception of the hurricanes, however, the weather for the period could best be described as "dull." The temperatures for each month were above normal with a few weak cold fronts moving through, notably Sept. 7, Oct. 4 and 23, and Nov. 7 and 19. Some locations reported frost as early as Sept. 7, while others such as New Baltimore were still producing tomatoes as late as Oct. 31. The Region was spared (or, to some, robbed) of significant amounts of snow. Rainfall, on the other hand, totaled between 19.5 in. (49.5 cm) in the hills east of the Hudson and 10.3 in. (26 cm) at the Albany Airport, which in itself was 1.25 in. above normal for that station.

The discovery of a new birding area with proven potential is always welcome news to a region. Bob Budliger did just that by working on a hunch and finding a flock of Am. Golden Plovers on the expansive lawn at the General Electric Plastics Plant in Feura Bush. Visits to the area brought on by this find led to sightings of other noteworthy "grass-pipers" as noted below.

Other goodies for the period were: Cattle Egret, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Am. Golden Plover, Hudsonian Godwit, Northern Phalarope, Common Raven and White-eyed Vireo.

Observers: Ken Able. V. & W. Able, Arlene & Tom Brown, Bob Budliger, Jim Bush, Geoffrey Carleton, Paul Connor, Juanita Cook, Jeff Davis, Nancy Dennis, Kate Dunham, Marian Ford, Barbara & Hugo Gardina, A. & M. Giddings, Elisabeth Grace, Bernie Grossman, Andrew Guthrie, Richard P. Guthrie, M. Healey, P. Ingalls, Paul Kerlinger, Carolyn & Ron LaForce, Bill Lee, Arthur Long, Bob Marx, A. Nickerson, Tom Palmer, D. Rhindress, W. Sabin, Bill Schuster, Tommy Williams, R. P. Yunik.

Abbreviations: Cox-Coxsackie, GE-General Electric, NB-New Baltimore, and SL-Saratoga Lake.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: Nov. 3 thru Nov. 23, late in arriving. Red-throated Loon: Three SL Nov. 17 (BG). Red-necked Grebe: Nov. 24 SL. Horned Grebe: Nov. 3 thru 24. Pied-billed Grebe: Nov. 1 thru 19. Double-crested Cormorant: Sept. 8 thru Nov. 8. Great Blue Heron: thru Nov. 13. CATTLE EGRET: one Buskirk, Washington Co. Nov. 25 (late) (JD). Great Egret: two Wide-waters Sept. 12; one Germantown Sept. 13. Black-crowned Night Heron: two Germantown Sept. 6. Canada Goose: max 600 Pinnacle Oct. 13. Brant: six NB Oct. 20. Snow Goose: four scattered reports Nov. 16 thru Nov. 19; max only 15 Nov. 16 Castleton. Blue-winged Teal: max 110 Coeymans Sept. 22; one found dead at Chatham after Hurricane David. Oldsquaw: eight Alcove Res. Nov. 6. White-winged Scoter: 12 SL Nov. 4; six Mohawk R. at Colonie Nov. 14. Ruddy Duck: eight Basic Res Nov. 6 (BB).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: unusually high numbers with max 73 reported from



Dawson Rock Hawk Watch Sept. 15-16 (KD & ADBC). Goshawk: one each day Sept. 15, 22 & 23 Pinnacle; total for season—seven Berne (PK). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 54 season total from Pinnacle and Dawson Rock; 175 total from Berne. Cooper's Hawk: 18 total reported Sept. 30 thru Nov. 17. Red-tailed Hawk: the total of 268 compares with last year's total from the hawk watches but belies the apparent scarcity of the species elsewhere; some observers report an absence of immatures among the already low numbers in otherwise favorable habitats such as Cocksackie Flats. Red-shouldered Hawk: 21 season total Berne (PK); six others reported from Pinnacle and Pine Bush. Broad-winged Hawk: 802 Berne (PK); 154 Sept. 15-16 Dawson Rock. Rough-legged Hawk: only two reports for the entire season! one each Nov. 8 & 17. **BALD EAGLE**: multiple sightings along Schoharie Creek near Gilboa mid-Oct. (*fide* GC). Osprey: encouraging array of reports Sept. 3 thru a very late Nov. 16 Underhill Pond (A & TB); 57 others reported. **PEREGRINE FALCON**: two were spotted miles apart on Oct. 6, the first over Berne by PK & VB; the other toward dusk at Feura Bush by WS; another was over Berne Nov. 5 (PK). Merlin: three reports; two Dawson Rock Sept. 15; one Pinnacle Oct. 14. **AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER**: 11 on the lawn of the GE Feura Bush Plant Sept. 23 (BB) thru four Oct. 14 with a max of 14 on Oct. 7; another report of one on Cox Flats Oct. 21. Greater Yellowlegs: outnumbered Lesser 14 to three, max Greater ten Stockport Station Sept. 8; the three Lessers were also at Stockport Station Sept. 8. Pectoral Sandpiper: far more numerous than usual with reports from both Cox Flats and GE, Feura Bush Sept. 23 thru Oct. 21; max 12 Sept. 23 Cox and seven Oct. 13. **LEAST SANDPIPER**: two Black Creek Sept. 3 (BB). Dunlin: one GE Oct. 13 (WS). Semipalmated Sandpiper: one Black Creek Sept. 3; two GE Sept. 24. **HUDSONIAN GODWIT**: two GE Oct. 6 & 7 (WS & many others). **NORTHERN PHALAROPE**: one off Long Island (Lake George) Sept. 29 (MF). **PARASITIC JAEGER**: first Regional report was of one adult flying south down the Hudson River as Hurricane David was breaking up on Sept. 6; the bird circled higher and higher, then almost out of sight, flew off to the east in a hurry for the nearest ocean (RPG). A second bird, a subadult, was found at Colonie landfill by Ken Able on Oct. 8. What was probably the same bird was relocated by G. Carleton and thanks to a few quick phone calls was seen by many others that same evening. Iceland Gull: only report is of one on the lawn of Gloversville High School in the company of 300 Ring-billed Gulls Nov. 26. **LAUGHING GULL**: first Regional record was of an imm. flying north on the Hudson River at NB during Hurricane David Sept. 6 (RPG); another, an adult, was flying around the base of Cohoes Falls Nov. 3 (RPG). Bonaparte's Gull: four Mohawk River at Crescent Oct. 4. **SOOTY TERN**: nine (poss 12) flying north over the Hudson River at NB at the height of Hurricane David Sept. 6. The first three could only be identified as dark-backed terns and were probably this species. The next day two others were found at Stockport Station (KA & KD) while another was found dead near Delmar (specimen to NYS Museum, Albany). **ROYAL TERN**: two were seen flying south over the Hudson River at Cox Sept. 8 (BB, BL). Probably the same two were seen about twenty minutes later at Four-mile Point as they stopped on a sand bar, for about an hour, acting very restless, before taking wing and heading south again (RPG).

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS**: Great Horned Owl: reports from Cambridge, Castleton, Chatham and NB. Barred Owl: reports from Cambridge and Chatham; it is interesting that the reports of this species continue to come from wooded wetlands in the interior highlands rather than from the river valleys. Whip-poor-will: one at dusk at GE, Feura Bush Sept. 25. Com. Nighthawk: a late report of one over the Pine Bush Oct. 5 (BL). Chimney Swift: Oct. 12 is late for this species but it was exceptional when B. Budliger found a flock of 100+ over Cohoes Falls on that date. Com. Flicker: an individual with two pink primaries, two pink outer tail feathers and a pink secondary on each wing was banded by R. Yunick Nov. 24. This is the third flicker with this combination of markings that he has banded in his Schenectady yard since 1963. Red-bellied Woodpecker: Chatham Nov. 2-10 (KD, EG & EM). Red-headed Woodpecker: Chatham Nov. 22 (KD, EG).

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** Blue Jay: R. Yunick reports them more numerous than usual at Jenny Lake; hundreds flying over NB each evening thru Sept. **COMMON RAVEN:** one Stephentown Sept. 30 (DR) probably a "spillover" from the increasing population in the Berkshires, in western Massachusetts. Tufted Titmouse: curiously being reported as increasing and widespread in the interior highlands, i.e. Cambridge and Tarborton, yet may be decreasing in the river valleys. Carolina Wren: one Palmers Ravine Nov. 12. Hermit Thrush: somewhat scarce with only three reports. Swainson's Thrush: hundreds overhead through the early hours of night, Sept. 11, 13, 16, 19 & 23 Schodack Ctr. (PC). E. Bluebird: 23 Oct. 17 Stephentown (RR). Water Pipit: Sept. 24 thru Oct. 26; max 100 Oct. 8 Cox Flats. No. Shrike: certainly not as numerous as last year, only one report Nov. 16 Cambridge (ND).

**VIREOS—WARBLERS: WHITE-EYED VIREO:** one imm, banded NB Sept. 15; seen thru Sept. 22. Tennessee Warbler: 26 banded at NB in Sept., compare with 89 for the same efforts last year. Wilson's Warbler: few reports include a late individual Oct. 7 at Coeymans (AG).

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS:** Bobolink: only report one Cox Flats Sept. 8. Evening Grosbeak and Purple Finch: sparse with only a few scattered reports. House Finch: R. Yunick reports a continued increase at his Schenectady yard, having banded 143 from mid-Sept. thru Nov. Red Crossbill: only report is of one in flight over Jenny Lake Nov. 23 (RPY). Vesper Sparrow: two Oct. 21 Cox Flats—only report. Lincoln's Sparrow: three banded NB Sept. Lapland Longspur: a very early individual Oct. 8 at Cox Flats followed by three others by Oct. 21. Snow Bunting: an early Oct. 21 Cox Flats; also Nov. 3 Castleton and Nov. 23 L. Taghkanic, regular thereafter.

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## REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

The weather bureau said this was one of the warmest autumns of the century. Most people did not realize it however, since there were a few cold days. The first and last weeks of Sept. and Oct. were unusually cold, but the middle of these months were on the balmy side. November was less variable, but warmer than usual. Katydid's were calling far into October in spite of a three inch snowfall on October 10, which broke down trees and branches still laden with green leaves. Precipitation was normal, with rainy days scattered rather evenly thru the period.

The big news for the period was the exotics brought into the Region by tropical storm "David" on Sept. 6. (Tropical storm "Frederic" a week later was uneventful.) Sooty Terns were found all along the Hudson, with a maximum of six adults and two immatures at New Hamburg. Farther down stream at Dobbs Ferry, Berna Weissman was looking at a Sooty Shearwater in addition to Sooty Terns, and also at Least Terns, Forster's Terns, Black Terns, and Northern Phalaropes.

A remarkable event on the lower Hudson was the invasion of Forster's Terns in late October, which continued to mid-November. Formerly this species was

recorded only after tropical storms carried them inland from the ocean front, but no storms were in the area at this time.

Hawk movements at the two major hawk watches did not appear to be impressive; but when analyzed, a number of previous records were broken. Mt. Peter established new highs for six species, and tied one. All this in spite of a total count equal to half their previous high. Hook Mt. had one new high of 11 Peregrines, a heartening report. Except for a few Evening Grosbeaks, no winter finches had appeared by the end of the period. Waterfowl went thru in excellent numbers and variety. Shorebirds were generally poor everywhere except at Lake Tappan in Rockland, which was unusually low; and at the Warren Turf Farm near Pine Island, Orange. Stewart Airport was also good considering the continuing disturbance of heavy equipment lengthening runways and in general tearing up the place. Warbler movements were largely as expected with only a few exceptions noted in the report. Fringillids were low, especially sparrows.

Contributors and observers cited: Al Brayton, Tom Burke, Jeff Daly, Robert F. Deed, Valerie Freer, Mary & Jim Key, Helen Manson, Adam Martin, Ken McDermott, Frank Murphy, John C. Orth, Eleanor Pink, Judy & Paul Read, Benton Seguin, Selden Spencer, John Tramontano, Edward D. Treacy, Marion Van Wagner, Berna Weissman.

Abbreviations: The first few letters of each county; Ashokan—Ashokan Reservoir; CB—Cornwall Bay; CP—Croton Point; MC—Marshlands Conservancy; PL—Playland, Rye; PP—Piermont Pier; RN—Rye Nature Center; WTF—Warren Turf Farm, Pine Island.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: max 26, Ashokan Sept. 25, and 30 there Oct. 16. Red-throated Loon: one Ashokan Nov. 1, another there Nov. 28. One CB off and on from Nov. 1-30. One PL Oct. 15 was the earliest. Another there Oct. 29. RED-NECKED GREBE: four at CB Nov. 12 (BS). Horned Grebe: first Ashokan Oct. 20. Pied-billed Grebe: two unusual concentrations; eight in a group on the Hudson near Oct. 25, and for two weeks thereafter (AB), another 12 on Rockland Lake Nov. 28 (RFD). SOOTY SHEARWATER: one Hudson R at Dobbs Ferry Sept. 6 after tropical storm "David" (BW). Great Cormorant: one imm. seen well in flight at Stony Pt. Nov. 9 (RFD). The fourth record for Rock. By the end of Oct. arriving Great Cormorants equalled in number the departing Double-crested along the sound front in E. Westchester. Double-crested Cormorant: more reports along the full length of the Hudson than ever before. An unusual report of one on a small pond near Wurtsboro Nov. 14 (J, PR). Great Blue Heron: in good numbers thru Region. More than 15 at PL thru end of Oct. Green Heron: one LaGrangeville Nov. 12 was quite late (JD). Little Blue Heron: imms. at PP Sept. 10 and 15. Cattle Egret: rarely reported in fall; ten in Dutch Oct. 14. Great Egret: max nine at CP Aug. 25. Snowy Egret: max 37 at CP Aug. 25. Louisiana Heron: one late bird at MC Oct. 21. Black-crowned Night Heron: nine imm. and one ad. at PP Aug. 29. YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON: Last at MC Oct. 7. Mute Swan: max 34 at CB Nov. 11. Canada Goose: an unparalleled migration, EDT counted 2281 in 48 flocks over Mt. Peter Oct. 8. More than 1000 were at CB Oct. 10 and more than 5000 flew over Bashakill the same date. On Oct. 8, 12,000 were obs. from the Mohonk Hawk Watch. Brant: good flights reported. 52 over Dobbs Ferry Oct. 16, more than 200 over PP Oct. 27. 14 at CB Oct. 16 and 75 over Hook Mt. Nov. 5. Snow Goose: more than 500 at CB Nov. 10, and three in the Amenia area of Dutch Nov. 4-14. Gadwall: 11 at Rockland L Oct. 30 was that county's second highest count ever. Am. Wigeon: at the Strauss Marsh, Amenia thru period; inc. to about 50 birds by Nov. 30. Redhead: six CB Nov. 23. Canvasback: returning to the good numbers of 20 years ago. More than 800 near Kingston Pt. Nov. 24. More than 4000 at Cornwall Bay from Nov. 12, and 2000 at Iona I. Nov. 28. Bufflehead: max 250 at CB Nov. 3. Oldsquaw: max 23 CB Nov. 12. 16 Ashokan Nov. 18. From two to six at two locations in Dutch thru Nov. COMMON EIDER: an unexplained appearance of one female



at Quaker Lake, Dutch Oct. 15, a new bird for the county (Howard Pellet, Mary Yegella, mob). White-winged Scoter: one Tarrytown Res. for the week after Nov. 12 was unusual there. Seven near Kingston Pt. Nov. 24, two Ashokan Oct. 16, one Cruger's I. Oct. 13, one CB Nov. 23. Surf Scoter: one Rudd Pd. Dutch Oct. 19, inc. to eight Oct. 20. Black Scoter: 20 CB Oct. 11 inc. to 250 Oct. 16 and 300 Nov. 4; last 10 there Nov. 12 (BS). 16 near Beacon Nov. 8. Ruddy Duck: four Tomahawk L. Oct. 13. Hooded Merganser: max 14 Nov. 8 Pawling. Com. Merganser: first two fem. Ashokan early date of Sept. 11 (AB). Red-breasted Merganser: only inland report one CB Nov. 28 (BS).

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** The table below shows the results of the two major hawk watches reporting:

<u>Mt. Peter, Warwick</u>				<u>Hook Mt., Nyack</u>			
Season	1 day			Season	1 day		
<u>Total</u>	<u>maximum</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>maximum</u>	<u>Date</u>	
7*	2	10/13,20	Goshawk	9	3	10/21	
1,751*	161	10/15	Sharp-shinned	4,284	273	10/14	
57*	9*	9/15	Cooper's Hawk	62	12	10/14	
230	38	10/26	Red-tailed	235	72	10/30	
67*	16*	10/31	Red-shouldered	134	42	10/31	
3,181	962	9/15	Broad-winged	11,175	3,225	9/12	
3*	2*	9/ 8	Golden Eagle	5	2	10/15	
2	1	9/17,19	Bald Eagle	5	1		
54	5	9/23	Marsh Hawk	209	16	10/14	
157*	22*	9/15	Osprey	273	27	10/ 4	
4	1		Peregrine	11*	2	10/26	
11	3*	9/13	Merlin	17	6	10/ 6	
394	82	10/ 8	Am. Kestrel	587	56	9/19	

\* New high record

Turkey Vulture: left most of area by end of Oct. one or two obs in Dutch till Nov. 23. Black Vulture: one over Hook Mt. Sept. 4 (John Irvine, mob). Second record, first was Spring 1976. Goshawk: a few other than those in Hawk Watches. Cooper's Hawk: a surprising five at MC on Oct. 14. Rough-legged Hawk: arr. at Galesville Airport after Nov. 22. Infrequently observed thereafter. Golden Eagle: several reports away from Hawk Watches; one at CP Oct. 21 was a different bird from that nearby at Butler Sanct. Oct. 20. One over MC Oct. 14, another ad at Harriman Pk. in Nov. Bald Eagle: fewer than half the number of Golden. Osprey: has recovered beautifully from lows of a decade ago. Numbers peaked at MC Oct. 7 with 15. Peregrine: the 11 at Hook Mt. this season was their best season ever, this in light of the fact they had *none* last year. An imm. on Oct. 23 had a tail streamer, possibly an antenna. Merlin: one remained at Dobbs Ferry river front for three days the first week of Oct. Three separate individuals were observed at Wawarsing from Oct. 14-Nov. 12. Four Dutch birds were obs during last half of Sept. One at Pleasant Valley was hawking song birds at a feeder on Oct. 4. Bobwhite: reported at New Paltz Sept. 7, new to that area. Turkey: continues to inc. in Ulst and holding in Dutch. Com. Gallinule: one imm. at Tarrytown Res. Oct. 5-6. Am. Coot: more than 100 on Hudson, Town of Esopus Oct. 25. 175 on Hudson at Beacon Nov. 7-30. Semipalmated Plover: very few. Most were gone from the shore of L I Sound by Sept. 6. Killdeer: max more than 50 L Tappan Sept. 18. Am. Golden Plover: 200 at WTF Sept. 15 inc. to 350 by Sept. 23. Last there 21 on Oct. 23. At SA from Sept. 1 to Nov. 10, with max of 150 Oct. 1. Upland Sandpiper: very few; at SA Sept. 1-15. Max there ten on Sept. 1. Yellowlegs: max 77 of both species at L Tappan Sept. 18. Pectoral Sandpiper: from 6-12 at WTF dur. late Sept. Last there ten on Oct. 20. At SA Sept. 21-Nov. 3, max 30 on Oct. 4 and 13. Several reports of single birds elsewhere. White-rumped Sandpiper: three at L Tappan Sept. 10 was the 10th record for Rock. **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** one Town of Marbletown, Ulst Sept. 24 was probably the first record for Ulst (Bob Terwil-



liger). At WTF two appeared Sept. 15, inc. to three by Sept. 17. Last one there Sept. 23. Three at SA Oct. 2 reduced to two Oct. 3, 4. Dunlin: 40 SA Oct. 5. Short-billed Dowitcher: 22 at WTF Sept. 23. **STILT SANDPIPER**: two WTF Sept. 22. Semipalmated Sandpiper: peaked at L Tappan Sept. 23 with 45 birds. **WESTERN SANDPIPER**: one L Tappan Sept. 16 inc to two on Sept. 23. Only the fifth and sixth record for Rock. **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER**: two at WTF Sept. 15 inc. to five by Sept. 23. Last there Oct. 7. First at SA two on Sept. 29. Inc. to 15 Oct. 4 (BS). Sanderling: two on beach at Kingston Pt. Sept. 23 were the only reports. **WILSON'S PHALAROPE**: first record for Rock four birds at L Tappan Sept. 15, the day after tropical storm "Frederic." One remained thru Sept. 20. **NORTHERN PHALAROPE**: 12 on Hudson at Dobbs Ferry after tropical storm "David" Sept. 6. Great Black-backed Gull: an estimated 1500 went down the Hudson at Dobbs Ferry Sept. 6 after "David" (BW). Laughing Gull: about 500 in the vicinity of Dobbs Ferry after "David." This was in contrast to extremely low numbers across the river at Piermont thru entire season. Max there was seven on Nov. 15. **CALIFORNIA GULL**: one, probably last year's bird, at Rockland L. Oct. 3, one day less than a full year after its discovery there last year (BW). Last there Nov. 7. Bonaparte's Gull: many more reports than usual. Eight at PP Nov. 19, one CB Aug. 31 was still there Sept. 1. One Ashokan Sept. 17, two Hudson at Esopus Oct. 25, three CB Nov. 27, one New Hamburg Sept. 8. **FORSTER'S TERN**: two at Dobbs Ferry after "David" Sept. 6 were normal after a storm, but the phenomenal 20 at Piermont Pier Oct. 25 was most unusual, there being no storm at the time. Their numbers peaked to 46 on Oct. 31, and the last ten left on Nov. 10 (RFD, mob). A max of nine birds were observed dur. this time at Dobbs Ferry across the river, leaving Nov. 9 (BW). Com. Tern: numbers remained low after a poor summer. Four Oct. 20 Hudson off Dutch. **SOOTY TERN**: "David" brought in two ad and one imm on the Hudson at Dobbs Ferry (BW). On Sept. 7, two ad and one imm were on the Hudson at New Hamburg (M, JK). This inc to six ad and two imm Sept. 8 (KM). Five ad were last there Sept. 9 (EDT). Five ad were at Kingston Pt. Lighthouse Sept. 8 (AB). **LEAST TERN**: only report ten after "David" at Dobbs Ferry (BW). Black Tern: five at Dobbs Ferry after "David" (BW).

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: Com. Nighthawk: last report in E Westchester six at MC Oct. 13. A massive flight reported Sept. 7, one day after "David," at PL when Tom Burke and another observer tallied 1,540 in one hour. Chimney Swift: excellent numbers. Max ab 1200 over Middletown Sept. 23. Last seen there Oct. 7. More than 200 over a farm field at Pine Is. Sept. 15. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max five over Hook Mt. Sept. 5. Belted Kingfisher: several reporters mentioned numbers up. Com. Flicker: peak Oct. 14 with more than 15 at WTF. Red-bellied Woodpecker: continues a slow increase, with one or two birds in most reports.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS**: **WESTERN KINGBIRD**: one at Warwick Oct. 5-8 (Dennis Murphy, mob). Olive-sided Flycatcher: obs four days from Sept. 3-12 at Wawarsing. **PURPLE MARTIN**: 1 hawking insects at PL on the extreme date of Oct. 28. Exceeds previous late date for the area by seven days. Fish Crow: only report one seen and heard at Highland Falls Nov. 12. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one of the poorest years on record. Only one or two reported. Brown Creeper: one of the best years on record, esp in the north of Region. M, JK were counting as many as 25 daily on the trips around Dutch in Nov. Gray Catbird: one Pleasant Valley Nov. 11-18, and another at Kingston Nov. 19 were very late. Am. Robin: several hundred feeding on berries near Kingston Radio Tower thru Oct. More than 500 at a roost near Fallkill, Dutch dur Oct. Wood Thrush: in the Rye area until Oct. 23, very late. Swainson's Thrush: also found at Rye Oct. 14. E. Bluebird: six in the Shultzville area and four at Verbank, Dutch were probably remnants from the summer bird box project nearby. Golden-crowned Kinglet: several reports of numbers down. Water Pipit: a very poor season, max 50 SA Oct. 13, and 225 at WTF Oct. 14; 15 there till Nov. 18. No. Shrike: only report one at Galeville Airport Nov. 4. Loggerhead Shrike: one Sept. 19 at Dover Plains.

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS**: White-eyed Vireo: two Sept. records and three Oct. records in

Dutch. Last there Oct. 17. Yellow-throated Vireo: one RN Sept. 8 was a rare record for this non-breeding area. Red-eyed Vireo: last in the Rye area Oct. 12. Philadelphia Vireo: exc. numbers at Bashakill. Labor Day weekend produced at least four birds and perhaps as many as eight; one at Dobbs Ferry Sept. 18, and five birds in Dutch from Sept. 1-16. Worm-eating Warbler: one at Pine Swamp, Harriman Park on the very late date of Nov. 22 beats the previous late date of Oct. 6 by a month and a half (Robert Speiser). **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER**: one at RN on Oct. 7 and another at P'kpsie Sept. 14. Nashville Warbler: last Oct. 27 Wawarsing. Magnolia Warbler: remained at MC thru Oct. 28. Yellow-rumped Warbler: a very large movement over Hook Mt. Oct. 15. Later that day, at least 30 were found feeding in the road at Rockland L (BW); last one CB Nov. 28. Blackburnian Warbler: unusually low numbers in E Westchester; reported only to Sept. 16 there. Blackpoll Warbler; one Nov. 1-4 at Pleasant Valley was the only warbler report from Dutch in Nov. **KENTUCKY WARBLER**: one at Bashakill Sept. 2 (BS). **CONNECTICUT WARBLER**: one Bashakill Sept. 2, 1 South Salem Sept. 30 and another at RN Oct. 14. Mourning Warbler: one closely studied at RN Sept. 8. Yellow-breasted Chat: one mist netted at Ellenville Aug. 25 was the first caught there in 11 years (VF).

**WEAVERS-SPARROWS**: Red-winged Blackbird: thousands at a roost near Fallkill Cr. Dutch dur Oct. No. Oriole: one near Rye Oct. 26, and 1 at Verbank Nov. 25, an imm male at Stissing Nov. 17. Rusty Blackbird: never abundant, the usual few flocks reported. Com. Grackle: JT estimates 14,000 on the turf at WTF Oct. 13. Brown-headed Cowbird: ab 4000 at WTF on Nov. 11. **BLUE GROSBEAK**: one at CP Nov. 28 was a female feeding with a mixed flock of sparrows (BW). Indigo Bunting: although five at Orangeburg Sept. 20 were rather late, a single bird at P'kpsie Nov. 19, 20 was way out (Jean Carter). **DICKCISSEL**: one Town of Ulster Oct. 9 (Bob Terwilliger); another Nov. 3-8 at Pleasant Valley (EP). House Finch: has become so common that reporters are not mentioning them any more. Rivals the House Sparrow in both numbers and feeding habits. Pine Siskin: none. Rufous-sided Towhee: peaked in the Nyack area Oct. 15 when at least 30 were obs on the path to Hook Mt. Two males spent the month of Nov. at a P'kpsie feeder, and two other reports came from that county in Nov. Vesper Sparrow: very few reports this Fall. Tree Sparrow: arr Dutch Oct. 11, numbers low thru period. Chipping Sparrow: one P'kpsie Nov. 6, and two Pawling Nov. 7 were quite late. White-crowned Sparrow: very few reports of a species that is often quite common in Fall. Lincoln's Sparrow: four reports from West thru mid-Oct. Max five at Wawarsing Oct. 12 (JCO). Observed on 14 different occasions from Sept. 12-Oct. 13 there. Swamp Sparrow: BW est 75 at PP Oct. 29. Song Sparrow: BW est 150 at PP Oct. 29. More than 100 at Stonykill Gardens, Dutch Oct. 13. Lapland Longspur: one with Snow Buntings at WTF Nov. 18 was the only report. Snow Bunting: a few arr last week of Oct.; 300 at WTF Nov. 23.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

## REGION 10 — MARINE

BARBARA J. SPENCER

Hurricane David, which passed to the west of our area September 6th, ushered in a Fall season that brought warmer than average temperatures and above average rainfall in September and October. Several days of northwest winds during October stimulated interesting hawk flights and avoided a repeat of last year's flightless Fall. It was 73 degrees Fahrenheit on the 24th and 25th of November

for a seasonal record. The warm spell lasted about ten days, right up to December first, with southerly winds and few birds in evidence as winter finches and most waterfowl stayed north, and migrants had long since passed through.

#### Hurricane David

Most birders had lost their expectations for interesting storm-related birds, following the passage of David, because the storm had gone ashore on the Georgia coast early on the morning of September 5th, and made its way northward by an inland route, losing much of its force as it traveled over land for more than twenty-four hours. The few observers who were on the beaches in the late morning of the 6th, as the storm passed by to the west, were treated to a record fallout of approximately ninety Sooty Terns, several Bridled Terns, a Long-tailed Jaeger, and a few Sandwich Terns, all swirling around with numerous storm-diverted Black Terns and Laughing Gulls. Most of the Sooty Terns had disappeared by 5:00 p.m., apparently heading out to sea as soon as possible. On the day of the storm, all of the terns seen along the south shore of Long Island were heading east. Those on the Hudson River were moving north. Single Sooty Terns observed September 7th at Shinnecock Inlet and September 8th at Sand's Point on Long Island Sound were moving west. A number of birds were picked up dead; details are listed under the species account. One bird was found in traumatic shock and emaciated. It was nursed back to health on a diet of 15 to 20 live killies a day, and released at Fire Island September 10th by Fran File. It took off over the water and flew directly south without a backward glance.

Interestingly, Art Cooley pointed out that five of six hurricanes which have produced Sooty Terns in our area (1878, 1928, 1955, 1976, and 1979) followed inland tracks while the storm in 1960 hugged the coast closely. It was clear that the two or three hours immediately following the storm were the productive ones, as birds which were able to, immediately left the area. Perhaps the fact that David's winds were lessened by inland passage was in part responsible for the survival of so many terns. More destructive winds might have reduced the number of survivors.

#### Federation Fall Pelagic Trip

The September 29th Fall pelagic trip proceeded to Block Canyon and vicinity, where warm Gulf Stream eddies and mats of sargassum were encountered. An Audubon's Shearwater was repeatedly and closely observed by all, as it moved ahead of the boat in short bursts and later rested on the water at close range. Other pelagics included one Northern Fulmar, seven Cory's Shearwaters, five Greater Shearwaters, 33 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, three unidentified phalaropes, and 23 Pomarine Jaegers. Two Federation trips are scheduled for 1980. The Spring trip will be held on Saturday, June 7th, the Fall trip on September 20th.

#### Coastal Raptor Movements

Northwest winds October 8th, 13th and 14th produced exciting flights for observers at various points along the beaches. Very encouraging numbers of Peregrines were seen. Neil Ward, who along with Harry Darrow, is one of our most consistent monitors of coastal hawk migration, reported a season total of 41 Peregrines. Sixty-five percent were immatures. Ward commented on the remarkable comeback: "I thought the bird was improving in the last two years but

this year matches the best days prior to the seventies." Ward went on, "Perhaps even more incredible is the increase in the Sharp-shinned Hawk as a beach migrant . . . now second only to kestrels." A remarkable Sharp-shinned flight was observed on October 14th at Fire Island. Looking east from the parking field toward the tower, there were as many as 30 to 40 "sharpies" in the air at any one time. A total of 1000 was estimated for the day. Ward commented that in the 1950s and 1960s a dozen sharpies in a day was considered good.

Observations from two widely separated points along the beach on October 14th are presented here:

	Jones Beach West End	Fire Island
Peregrine	3	5
Merlin	45	78
Am. Kestrel	886	526
Sharp-shinned Hawk	634	1,000
Cooper's Hawk	5	4
Goshawk	0	1
Osprey	4	3
Marsh Hawk	0	17

West End observers: A. Bell, E. Mills, L. Mills, W. Baumann. Fire Island observers: C. Ward, H. Darrow, A. Dignan, H. Pembleton, D. Powers, E. Levine.

West End observers noted that Sharp-shinneds outnumbered kestrels by two to three to one in the early morning; kestrels outnumbered sharp-shinned six to ten to one in the early afternoon. A seminar comment was made by the Fire Island observers. The reasons for this difference are not clear. Perhaps the Sharp-shinned flight originated from a closer point, say the Cape or eastern Long Island, while the Am. Kestrels traveled further that day to reach the beaches.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 chart daily trapping results and observations from the raptor banding station at Breezy Point, which was manned by Sam Chevalier and Art and Hannah Richard.

[Ed. Note: Table Two shows an approximately twenty to one ratio of Sharp-shinned Hawks to Cooper's Hawks. The traditional proportion of these two species, as observed further east at both Jones Beach and Fire Island, has always been closer to two hundred Sharp-shinned to one Cooper's, than the twenty to one figure at Breezy Point. Perhaps a daily watch at Fire Island would prove interesting, so that more accurate comparisons can be made with Breezy Point.]



## BREEZY POINT RAPTOR BANDING STATION DAILY TRAPPING RESULTS - 1979 SECOND YEAR

TABLE 1 - BIRDS TRAPPED

	SEPTEMBER										OCTOBER																		
Species	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	Total
Am. Kestrel	S	5	1	3	2	1								1	6	7	52	4	12		4	80	9	3	3	2		195	
Sharp-shinned	E				2						1				1	1	2		2		1	12	2	2	1		1	28	
Merlin	T		1				1					1			3	1		1			1							9	
Cooper's	T																1			1								2	
Marsh Hawk	N																1	1										2	
Peregrine	G						1																					1	
Daily Total	U	5	2	3	4	1	2				1	1	0	1	10	9	56	6				6	92	11	5	4	2	1	237
Average Dir	P	NE	E	NE	SW	N	E				E	S	SW	SE	W	W	NW	SW		SW	SE	SW	NW	W	SW	SE	W	NE	
Wind Velocity		10	10	5	5	5	5				5	10	5	10	10	10	15	10		10	10	10	15	10	10	5	5	10	
Station Hrs.		8	7.5	8.5	8	8.75	7.75				6.75	3	9	5	7	8.75	9.25	7.5		8.5	4	7.5	9.5	8.25	7	6	7.25	13.25	167.5

TABLE 2 - BIRDS SEEN FROM BLIND

Am. Kestrel	27	17	21	20	14	10					10	3	3	14	33	35	453	50		67	7	32	612	112	39	16	17	9	1,621
Sharp-shinned	1	6	1	7	3	5					4			2	5	10	44	2		4	5	8	218	22	33	10	5	5	400
Merlin		3	1	1		1						2	4	3	3	6	15	3		6	4	2	4	2	1	2			63
Cooper's				1													4			1	2	2	8	1	1	1			21
Marsh Hawk	3	1			1						1	1	1		1		4	1		1		2	3	1	1	1			23
Peregrine			1			1						3	1	4	1	2		3		1	3	1	2	1		1			25
Osprey		3	1	2							1			1	1	2	5						1						17
Daily Total	31	30	25	31	18	17					16	9	9	24	44	55	525	59		79	19	49	1847	140	75	27	27	14	2,170

TABLE 3 - RESULTS BY TYPE OF TRAP

	Small Bow	Medium Bow	Large Bow	Mist Net	Dho-Ghaza	Total
Am. Kestrel	46	76	38	19	16	195
Sharp-shinned	4	7	4	6	7	28
Merlin	1	2	4	1	1	9
Cooper's		2				2
Marsh Hawk			2			2
Peregrine			1			1
Total	51	87	49	26	24	237

### Roy Latham

It is with some awe that we mark the passing of Long Island's greatest naturalist, Roy Latham, at the age of 98, in Orient where he had spent his life. Perhaps the last of the old-time naturalists in the tradition of Audubon or Wilson, Roy Latham's collections of birds, mammals, fish, plants, and Indian artifacts represented one of the most complete pictures of Long Island flora, fauna and history that has been assembled. He donated 10,000 birds, mammals, and fish to the New York State Museum in 1969, and gave the New York State Archeological Association some 30,000 Indian artifacts, including items from fifty sites near Orient, and donated nearly 100,000 pressed plants, mosses, lichens, and algae to Cornell University. Among his discoveries was a large fly, *Lydella lathamii*, and a tiny moth, *Eucosma lathamii*. The North Fork Audubon Society Bulletin quoted Rachael Carson in Roy Latham's memory saying, "... when that intangible cycle has run its course it is a natural and not unhappy thing that a life comes to its end ..."

### Region 10 Record

When Dave Larsen's fall sightings were received it was clear that all previous records were eclipsed; Larsen's computer printout measured almost eleven feet in length. Oh, where will it all end?

Rarities for the season include: Audubon's Shearwater, White-faced Storm-Petrel, White-faced Ibis, Sandhill Crane, Long-tailed Jaeger, Sooty Tern, Bridled Tern, Sandwich Tern, Black Guillemot, Western Tanager.

Encouraging seasonal trends include good numbers of Peregrines, Sharp-shinned Hawks, and other raptors, large numbers of Yellow-billed Cuckoos along the beaches, and good numbers of Red-headed Woodpeckers.

Negative indications include low numbers of thrushes, few sparrows, no northern finches to speak of, few owls, Upland Sandpipers scarce, and Ruffed Grouse numbers remain low.

Contributors and initial observers: Robert Adamo, Jim Ash, Albert M. Bell, Paul A. Buckley, Thomas W. Burke, Ralph Cioffi, James Clinton, Barbara H. Conolly, Arthur P. Cooley, Michael Cooper, Harry Darrow, Thomas H. Davis, Stephen B. Dempsey, Joseph Di Costanzo, Alene Dove, Diane Engleke, Frances File, Paul Gillen, David Larsen, Anthony J. Lauro, Emanuel Levine, Alan Lindberg, Lois Lindberg, Al Lorenzetti, Midge Maple, Hugh McGuinness, Eugene T. Mudge, Joan Mullin, Don Powers, Peter W. Post, Glenn Quinn, Katherine A. Ray, Gilbert S. Raynor, Herbert Roth, Barbara J. Spencer, Ann Townsend, Cornelius Ward, Berna Weissman, Al Wollin.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loons seemed in fair numbers with 60 Nov. 13 along the Jones Strip (BW). Thirty Red-throated Loons were noted by the same observer, while 50 were observed passing Caumsett Park on Long Island Sound Nov. 30 (E. Barth, F. McDonough, H. McClure). Horned Grebe numbers seemed very low. An Eared Grebe remained at Jamaica Bay Refuge from Oct. 6 through Nov. 25. The AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER seen Sept. 28 on the Federation pelagic trip was carefully observed by many including D. W. Crumb, F. Scheider, R. Long, R. Andrie, THD, BJS. A WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL was found Sept. 19 at the mouth of the Hudson Canyon, at 39° 18' N, 72° 16' W (R. Heil, *vide* K. Powers). About 400 Gannets were feeding off of Jones and Cedar Beaches Nov. 13 including 40 inside Fire Island Inlet (BW). Great Cormorants arrived at Sands Point, where they winter, on Nov. 1 (BJS). Two Cattle Egrets Nov. 2 in Baiting Hollow, present during

the previous week, seemed late (DL) as did a Glossy Ibis lingering at Jamaica Bay Nov. 25 (BW). The previously reported pair of WHITE-FACED IBISES were seen as late as Sept. 7 (THD). Forty Whistling Swans flying up Rockaway Inlet were unusual (R. Bourgre), while 14 to 18 at Hook Pond were in a regular wintering place, in somewhat greater numbers than usual (PG, GSR, DL). Small flocks of Snow Geese, all of the blue morph of the smaller nominate race *Anser caerulescens*, were seen along the south shore with 12 Oct. 8 on Fire Island (BJS), and nine Oct. 11 at Smith's point (GSR), as were 150 Snow Geese in three flocks Oct. 11 (EL), all flying west. Reports of larger flocks, all of the white morph, moving along the north shore a month later, 35 in Sea Cliff Nov. 8 (AB), 70 over Hempstead Harbor Nov. 8 (B. Forquor), 200 over Sea Cliff Nov. 12 (AB) and 90 also over Sea Cliff the same day (BJS), may represent the larger race, *atlanticus*, which breeds in a restricted area around Baffin Bay, stops at Cap Tourmente on the St. Lawrence River for eight to ten weeks, and then moves toward wintering grounds on the Atlantic coast, stopping in large numbers in Delaware Bay. Two drake European Wigeons were reported on several dates from Southaven from Nov. 5 through Nov. 28 (DL, GSR, RA). An immature male was present at Jamaica Bay Nov. 17 through the period (mob). A drake returned to Fort Pond in Montauk Nov. 23 where one has wintered for several years (H. McG). Another was reported from Hook Pond Nov. 17 (PG). Canvasbacks started to return to the area in mid-November with 600 reported from Hook Pond Nov. 17 (DL). A female Harlequin Duck was seen at Montauk Nov. 17 (RA, GSR, DL). Half-a-dozen Common Eiders and one King Eider were there the same day; scoters were present, but only in small numbers. The first Hooded Mergansers in the area were six Oct. 13 at Quogue; they increased to 16 by Nov. 13 (DL). Eight at Hempstead Lake had increased to a maximum of 161 by Nov. 22 (SBD). Two female Common Mergansers arrived Dec. 1 at Hempstead Lake (SBD).

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Sharp-shinned Hawks were moving in good numbers along the beaches with Oct. 14 the big day; 302 were reported from Fire Island by one observer (DP), 1000+ estimated by another party (CW, HD), 634 seen at the west end of Jones Beach (AB *et al.*), and 218 at Breezy Point (*vide* DP). Among them were a few Cooper's Hawks, carefully identified: five were reported at west end (AB), four at Fire Island (CW, HD), and two at Fire Island by DP. One Cooper's was seen Oct. 11 at Jones Beach (EL, AW, CW); one at Southampton Oct. 13 (GSR). An adult Goshawk was reported Oct. 14 from Fire Island (A, Dignan, H. Pemberton), and another was at Westhampton Oct. 13 (DL). A Red-shouldered Hawk was seen overhead in Glen Cove Oct. 15 (RC); one was present at Muttontown Sept. 11 and 12 (AL, LL). A single Rough-legged Hawk was reported from Montauk Nov. 17 (GSR, DL), while another was seen a week earlier in Calverton (JC). Immature Bald Eagles were reported from Jamaica Bay Oct. 10 (G. Stout) and Prospect Park Oct. 30-31 (A. Chechilla). Falcons put on a good show this Fall with one observer reporting a total of 41 Peregrines (CW) including a peak count of 12 Oct. 8 on Fire Island (CW, HD). Seven Peregrines were reported Oct. 11 from Riis Park (P. Bernath), eight Oct. 13 from Fire Island (CW, HD). Reports of four to six birds were received from beach points on Oct. 8, 11, 13, and 14 (AJL, EL, CW, HD, *et al.*). Single Peregrines were seen Sept. 16 at Fire Island, Oct. 8 at Smith's Point, Oct. 14 at Shinnecock, and Oct. 20 at Mecox (GSR). Merlins were seen in good numbers with 60 reported Oct. 8 at Fire Island (CW, HD), 17 on Sept. 23 in the same location, and 78 on Oct. 14 (DP). Forty-five were seen from west end Oct. 14 (AB *et al.*). American Kestrels were also moving on Oct. 14 with 886 at west end (AB), in five and a half hours, and 526 at Fire Island from 1045 to 1630 hours (DP). These falcon numbers are comparable to Bull's maxima as listed in *Birds of New York State*. A SANDHILL CRANE, flying with egrets, dropped into the marsh near Tobay Pond Sept. 9 (A. Dignan, AW). Two Soras were present at Hook Pond Oct. 27 (GSR). A maximum of 16 American Oystercatchers were at Shinnecock Inlet Sept. 29, and a late bird remained at Moriches Inlet Nov. 24 (GSR). Am. Golden Plovers arrived in our area around the first of Sept. with 23 at Mecox the 7th (GSR), 25 there Sept. 15 (GSR), 50 in Riverhead Oct. 15 (RA), and 38 found in Riverhead Oct. 20 (GSR). Three late birds lingered at JFK Airport until Nov. 29 (S. Chevalier). A

Whimbrel Sept. 7 in Bayville was rare on the north shore (H. McClure), while one Nov. 25 at Jamaica Bay was late (JA). A Willet at Garvies Point in Glen Cove Sept. 2 was a first record for this location (RC). A maximum of 140 Greater Yellowlegs was reported from Hempstead Lake Oct. 12 (SBD). Purple Sandpipers moved into the Region toward the end of November; 35 were seen at Jones Inlet Nov. 23 (SBD), and five at the Lake Montauk jet-ties Nov. 17 (DL). A White-rumped Sandpiper at Hook Pond Oct. 27 was late (DL). Three Red Knots at the Jones Beach Coast Guard station Nov. 13 were also late (BW). Up to three Baird's Sandpipers were at Jones Beach West End, two Sept. 8-24 with many observers. One was reported Sept. 15 from Mecox (GSR, DL). Four Curlew Sandpipers were noted at Jamaica Bay this Fall. Two adults were present Aug. 15-31 as previously reported. A different adult appeared Sept. 3, seen by many, and an immature was discovered Sept. 11 (D. Riepe). Relatively few Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported this Fall. One was seen Sept. 1 at Jones Beach, only one or two were in the Sagaponack potato fields during September. Up to four were present at Miller Field Staten Island, one was at Mecox Sept. 7 (PAB, DL), one at Jamaica Bay Sept. 17 (KR) and one at Fire Island Oct. 8 (CW, HD). Up to four Marbled Godwits were at Jamaica Bay with one lingering through November. Two were seen there Nov. 8 (PG). Another was at Cupsogue Sept. 15 (JC). A maximum of eight Hudsonian Godwits were at Jamaica Bay in late September. An adult American Avocet was present at Jamaica Bay Sept. 1-7. Two were there Oct. 31-Nov. 11, and perhaps the same two Nov. 16-28 (GSR) for a late record. Eight Northern Phalaropes were at Mecox Sept. 6 the day of Hurricane David (DL) as were another eight at Shinnecock Inlet (GSR). A light phase Parasitic Jaeger was seen at Montauk Point Nov. 28 (DE). A Parasitic and an adult LONG-TAILED JAEGER, as well as one unidentified jaeger were seen at Shinnecock Inlet as Hurricane David passed (AJL). An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was seen at Montauk Point (H McG) Nov. 23. Another was present during heavy rain at the Guggenheim school in Sands Point Nov. 26 (BJS). An immature Little Gull was found at the inlet at Lake Montauk Nov. 17 (DL, GSR). Black-legged Kittiwakes reached a maximum of 500+ Nov. 23 at Montauk Point (H McG). An immature Sabine's Gull was well-described over the phone, after being seen Nov. 14 at Shinnecock Inlet, but written details were not received (W. Lamoureux). One Gull-billed Tern was seen the day of the storm, Sept. 6, on Fire Island (THD). Late Common Terns were reported Nov. 14 from Montauk Inlet Nov. 14 (GSR), Nov. 17 (DL), and from Shinnecock Inlet Nov. 24 (GSR). SOOTY TERN: sight records from Hurricane David are as follows: three Sept. 6 Shinnecock Inlet (plus several other dark terns) (GSR), four at Shinnecock Inlet (DL), three adults and two immatures Jones Beach (PWP, THD, EL), 65+ Fire Island (PWP *et al.*), ten+ Shinnecock Inlet (PWP), an adult at Shinnecock Inlet Sept. 7 (PAB), and an adult Sept. 8 at Sands Point (GQ), the only north shore record. An exhausted adult was picked up at Gardner's Park (North of Fire Island) and rehabilitated and released Sept. 10 (FF). Specimen records are listed here with the whereabouts of the specimen noted when known: one adult Sept. 6 JFK airport (S. Chevalier) specimen to AMNH. One immature to AMNH (PWP). One dead adult was found on the Captree bridge Sept. 6 (S. Tuttle). Two adults were picked up at Shinnecock Inlet Sept. 7 (GSR). One at Moriches Inlet (M. Scheibel), one adult Sept. 23 at Jones Beach (K. Feustel), an adult Sept. 30 at Jamaica Bay (R. Cook), and an adult "long dead" at Southampton (RA). A total of about 90 individuals were reported from Long Island. Far fewer BRIDLED TERNS were reported. Two adults were seen at Fire Island Sept. 6 (PWP); two adults and an immature were at Shinnecock Inlet Sept. 6 (AJL). Following the passage of a much-reduced tropical storm Frederic, an adult was noted Sept. 13 off Mecox Bay (L. Clark). An adult was found Sept. 15 at Shinnecock Inlet (JC), BJS waited for about six hours and saw it there Sept. 16, seen again Sept. 17 (GSR), and again on the 18th by Clinton. This individual was seen flying in the inlet apparently going to roost on the sand bars north of the inlet. Some observers saw the bird for extended periods as it picked food off the surface of the water. Three Royal Terns Sept. 6 at Jones Beach and two there the next day seemed storm-related. A count of 40 Royal Terns was made at Shinnecock Oct. 13 (DL) and ten were seen there Nov. 10 by the same ob-



server. A maximum of 60 was reported there Sept. 30 (THD *et al.*). Two remained Nov. 17 (PG). An adult and three immature SANDWICH TERNS rested for an hour or so at the west end Coast Guard station, Jones Beach (EL, THD, AW, S. Rosenberg) on Sept. 6th. One at Sagaponack Sept. 7 may have been an individual which was there during August (GSR, DL). Three Caspian Terns were reported Sept. 23 at Mecox Bay (JA), and one at Riis Park Sept. 11 (L. Shore). Black Terns were numerous the day of the storm and the day following. At least 40 were near the Jones Beach Coast Guard station, and others were distributed along the surf line. Two winter-plumaged BLACK GUILLEMOTS were seen at Montauk Point Nov. 30 (DE) and one was seen there the next day (M. Cashman). A Razorbill was seen Nov. 6 two miles off Long Beach, with water depth of 50 feet (A. Lorenzetti). Two Dovekies were seen at Fire Island Oct. 10 (PAB).

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** Yellow-billed Cuckoos were present in numbers along the beaches during October with 15 seen Oct. 8 (BJS), apparently a carryover from their good numbers last summer. A Barn Owl was found at Cedar Beach Nov. 12 (SBD). An unusual intermediate phase Screech Owl was seen at Muttontown Oct. 15 (AL, LL, W. Patterson). A Short-eared Owl was reported from Cedar Beach Nov. 12 as was a Saw-whet Owl (SBD). A calling Saw-whet Owl was discovered at Manorville Oct. 14 (GSR). While a count of 40 Common Nighthawks in Glen Cove Sept. 1 was good (RC), it's interesting to note that a maximum of 1540 was noted about six miles north, across the sound in Rye, on Sept. 7 (TWB). A group of 30 Chimney Swifts in Glen Cove Sept. 30 may have been the latest (RC). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird Oct. 8 on Fire Island was moving west in a hurry (AJL, BJS). Red-bellied Woodpeckers have become established as far east as Orient with four reports (AD). A female at Jamaica Bay Oct. 8-16 and a bird Oct. in the Marine Park area (J. Mullin) may have been migrants. Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen in better than usual numbers. An adult was at Jamaica Bay Sept. 15 (KR). Four were seen along Jones Beach Oct. 18 (AW), and six between Jones Beach and Fire Island Oct. 11 (CW). One was in Mecox Oct. 20 (GSR).

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** Western Kingbirds were reported from Upton Sept. 3, Manorville Oct. 19 (both GSR), Lake Montauk Nov. 17 (GSR, DL), Jones Beach Oct. 14 (AW), and Nov. 15 (BW). A wood pewee (sp) present at Ridge Oct. 21-23 was reported with the following note: "I heard the bird vocalize once and it did not resemble any vocalizations I have heard of the Eastern Wood Pewee. I have since listened to the Western Birds recording and believe that the vocalization resembles that of the Western Wood Pewee." (DL). Three late Barn Swallows were noted at Cedar Beach Nov. 12 (CW). One was at Jones Beach Nov. 16 (DE), and another at Jones Nov. 27 (BW). Blue Jays migrate each fall past Garvies Point in Glen Cove where they appear to go through agonies of indecision before they cross a small inlet; 203 were counted crossing the inlet in 30 minutes starting at 8 a.m. Sept. 27, and 216 in 30 minutes starting at 8:50 a.m. on Sept. 28 (AB). A Long-billed Marsh Wren was late at Montauk Nov. 17 (RA, GSR, DL). A Short-billed Marsh Wren was carefully observed Sept. 16 at Fire Island (FF *et al.*) while one was seen in "early October" at Riis Park (P. Bernath). Few Eastern Bluebirds were reported although a maximum of 12 to 15 Oct. 27 at Connetquot was more than has been seen in one place lately (A. & A. Raynor). A group of eight was at Upton Oct. 29 (GSR) and two were in Manorville Nov. 13 (DL).

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** A White-eyed Vireo Oct. 13 in Manorville seemed late (DL). Yellow-throated Vireos were reported Sept. 16 at Garvies Point (BJS) Oct. 11 at Jones Beach where they are rare (EL), and Oct. 11 at Riverhead (E. Kemnitzer). Philadelphia Vireos were easier to find than usual with a maximum of six Sept. 12 at Garvies Point (O. Dunning). Three were still present through Sept. 16 (RC). One Philadelphia was reported Sept. 21 from the fishing station at Jones Beach (EL, CW, AW), and one from Fire Island Sept. 16 (FF). Single individuals were noted further east at Mastic and Yaphank Sept. 8 (GSR). A Black-and-white Warbler Nov. 22 in Central Park was on the late side (PWP). A

Golden-winged Warbler netted Oct. 13 in Manorville seems to establish a new late date for the state (GSR). A Golden-winged was also seen Sept. 16 in Riverhead (E. Kemnitzer). A Tennessee Warbler at Montauk Oct. 27 was late (GSR, DL). An Orange-crowned Warbler Oct. 4 was well seen at Garvies Point (RC). A maximum of five were found in the Montauk area Oct. 27 (JA *et al.*). Most warblers are on the late side after mid-October: one Nashville, a Black-throated Blue, two Blackpolls, and two Common Yellowthroats were seen in the Montauk area Oct. 27 (DL, GSR). Two Blackpolls were at a feeder in Freeport Nov. 12 (CW), two were at the dump in Montauk Nov. 17 (DL), and one was at Montauk Nov. 30 (DE). An Ovenbird at Stonybrook Nov. 30 was also late (DP). Connecticut Warblers are regular at Garvies Point, Glen Cove. One was seen there Sept. 3 (J. Doran), one Sept. 9 (RC, BJS), one Sept. 17 (D. Thompson). Two Connecticut Warblers were seen Sept. 21 at the fishing station at Jones Beach along with a Mourning Warbler (EL, CW, AW). A Mourning Warbler was netted in Manorville Sept. 7 (GSR). Several Yellow-breasted Chats were discovered: one was at Garvies Point Oct. 4 (RC), another at Fire Island Oct. 11 (BW), one at Sands Point Oct. 14 (GQ), one at Hither Hills Oct. 27 (RA, GSR, DL), and one at Jones Beach Nov. 15 (AW).

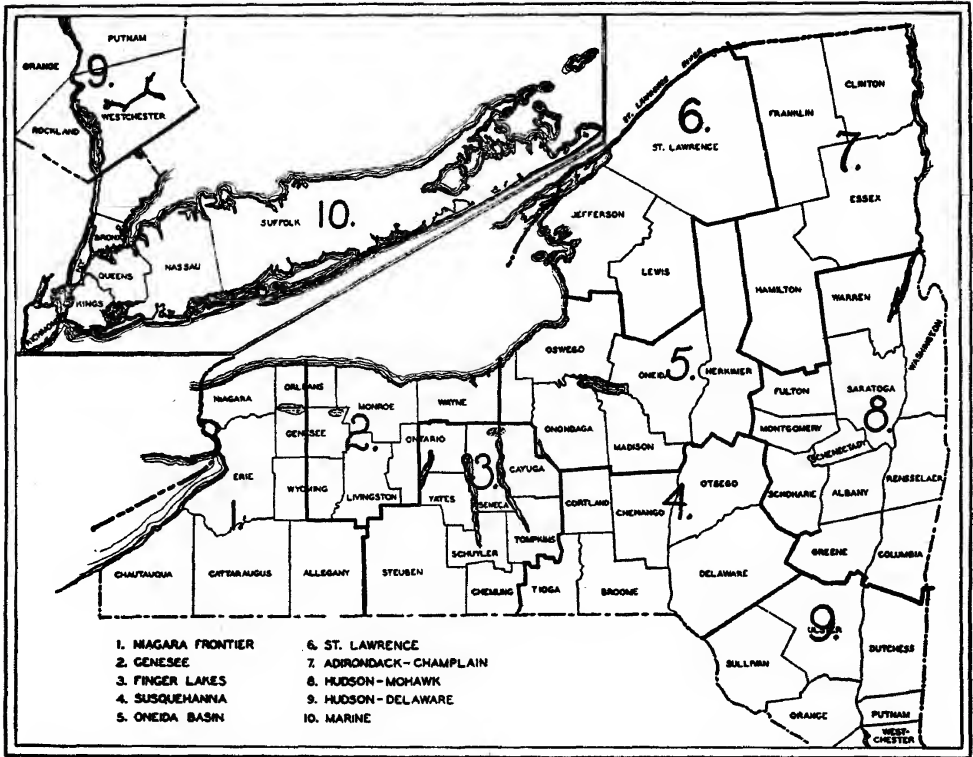
**WEAVERS-SPARROWS:** A female Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Captree Oct. 10-11 (PAB). Northern Orioles lingered at Hither Hills and Montauk Oct. 27 (DL, GSR). A WESTERN TANAGER was found Nov. 22 at Jamaica Bay but not reported right away (N. Halmi); it was seen Dec. 1 (P. Bernath). A Scarlet Tanager Oct. 13 at Hampton Bays was late (DL). The Summer Tanager seen Oct. 6 near Riis Park was rare in the Fall (J. & M. Yrizarry). Nine individual Blue Grosbeaks were reported from Long Island Sept. 30 through Nov. 18. Five Indigo Buntings in two locations in the Montauk area were late Oct. 27 (GSR, DL). Dickcissels were well reported this year after several years during which their numbers were low. The first report was Aug. 16 from the "ranch" in Montauk (AW). Another was seen Sept. 16 at the Jones fishing station (FF); one to two individuals were at the Coast Guard station at Jones Beach and were reported by a number of people through the period. Another was in Hampton Bays Oct. 13 (DL); Flanders Oct. 13 (GSR), Garvies Point Oct. 16 (RC), a female was on Fire Island Oct. 26 (PG), while another individual was at a feeder in Freeport Nov. 9 (CW). A few Pine Siskins were seen at the beach Oct. 11 (EL, AW). No other reports were received. Vesper Sparrows remain scarce, yet several small groups were reported: ten at Miller Place Oct. 11 was an unusually good number (DL). Five Oct. 20 at Garvies Point were also more than usual (RC, BJS). Three were seen on Fire Island Oct. 26 (PG), two at Jones Beach Oct. 17 (AW), and two Oct. 27 at Montauk (GSR). Lark Sparrows were reported from Shinnecock Sept. 7 (GSR), from Tobay Sept. 21 (EL, AW, CW), with about six reports from Long Island between Sept. 2 and Oct. 6. Clay-colored Sparrows were found at Riis Park 7-8 with many observers, at Fire Island Oct. 11 (PAB), and at Cedar Beach also on Oct. 11 (BW). White-crowned Sparrows were moving in several small flocks of four to five along the Jones strip Oct. 11 (BW). A Lincoln's Sparrow was reported from Garvies Point Oct. 6 (RC). Three were at Montauk Oct. 27 (RA, DL, GSR), and one at Fire Island Oct. 30 (BW).

Please try to submit seasonal reports in approximately check-list order. Chronological lists are very difficult to handle.

Correction: In the Fall 1978 report the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Moriches Inlet should be deleted. The observer intended to report the bird at Jamaica Bay as reported by others.

154 Dayton Street, Sea Cliff, New York 11579

## REPORTING REGIONS



For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. IV Nos. 1 and 2

## REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is March 7

Spring Season: March, April, May

Deadline is June 7

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is September 7

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is December 7

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